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MODERN
AGRICULTURE;
OR, THE
PRESENT STATE OF HUSBANDRY
IN
GREAT BRITAIN.

INCLUDING,
AN ACCOUNT OF
THE BEST MODES OF CULTIVATION PRACTISED
THROUGHOUT THE ISLAND;
THE OBSTACLES TO FARTHER IMPROVEMENTS;
AND THE MEANS BY WHICH THESE MAY BE MOST
EFFECTUALLY REMOVED.

BY JAMES DONALDSON, DUNDEE.

In ancient times, the sacred plough employ'd
The kings, and awful fathers of mankind:
And some

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Have held the scale of empire, rul'd the storm
Of mighty war; then, with unwearied hand,
Disdaining little delicacies, seiz'd
The plough. —

THOMSON.

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A C A R D.

IN order to enable the Public at large, and particularly the very numerous and respectable Subscribers who have honoured Mr Donaldson with their countenance and support, to form an idea of what may be expected in his present publication, he now submits to their review a Prospectus, in which the various particulars proposed to be discussed, and the order of their arrangement are exhibited.

To prepare the reader for a comprehensive and particular account of the present state of agriculture in Great Britain, it has been deemed proper, in several introductory chapters of this work, to explain many general points, previous to the discussion of those which may be considered by the practical farmer as more immediately interesting.

Mr Donaldson has only further to add, that, though he has spared no pains to render the subjoined plan as complete as possible, yet, should it appear to the Subscribers that any thing material has been omitted, he will thankfully receive and duly attend to whatever information any of them may be pleased to communicate on the subject.

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DEDICATION



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OF

GREAT BRITAIN.

BOOKS are in general dedicated to individuals, or to collective bodies of men. Dedications to individuals are most common, and are addressed to some person of distinction, from whose countenance and support the Author may expect that his publication will be well received. Dedications, however sincere on the part of the writer, and justly expressive of the merits of the patron, are liable to be deemed by the world at large to favour of ostentation or flattery.

THE independence of your character sets you above such suspicions; and to none can this work be so properly inscribed as to you: You have already patronised it. Fostered by you, the first Volume is now about to be delivered to the world. You are most materially interested in

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the whole. Most capable of discovering its merit, if any merit it may possess, and most able to carry into practice any useful hints it may contain.

To render it worthy of your approbation, the writer has consulted most of the treatises on Agriculture, ancient and modern, and has availed himself of every thing he deemed important in them, either for the purpose of more fully illustrating the subjects treated of, or more strongly impressing the reader with the propriety of adopting the plans proposed. He is nevertheless in hopes that he will not be deemed a plagiarist; for although he freely acknowledges that he owes much to publications by others, on particular branches of husbandry, yet he has on all occasions thought for himself, and written from his own experience.

For many years he had occasion to practise husbandry. For a considerable period he was led, from this situation in life, to attend to the management of estates, as well as to mark the modes and practices of the most skilful farmers in both kingdoms,

SINCE engaging in this work, he has had an opportunity in the course of an extensive tour, made through several parts of England and Scotland,



land, to observe much in regard to the present state of Agriculture; the spirit that prevails for adopting better modes of husbandry; and the obstacles which impede further improvements; these circumstances enable him to write with a practical precision, which otherwise he could not have attained.

He is aware that part of the first volume may be, regarded by some readers as extraneous; but he trusts, that the greater part of them will perceive the intimate connection between some of the first Chapters and the sequel. In order to render a system complete, many particulars must be included, which, when viewed as detached, or apart, may appear unnecessary or improper. He is sensible too, that, from a desire to include every thing of moment on the subject, the work will swell to a greater size than he expected; but as a system, he humbly hopes it may be found more perfect than any one yet published. To render it so, he pledges himself that his utmost endeavours shall not be wanting. He feels himself indeed strongly impelled to testify his gratitude to a generous public.

He has only, Gentlemen, further to add, what must be known to you all, and what in the present day is often inculcated; namely, that the best information on the subject of Husbandry will

will avail little, if not made subservient to *practice*. It belongs to you, (and from you the nation certainly expect it), to promote useful improvements in Agriculture, by example, and by encouragement, as well as by precept. Thus shall you obtain that exquisite satisfaction of mind, which springs from the consciousness of having exerted yourselves to advance that art, on which, more than any other, the real wealth and greatness of a state depend: Acting in this manner, may you live to behold British Husbandry brought to a degree of perfection, unknown in any other part of Europe; that this happy æra may soon arrive, is the sincere wish of,

GENTLEMEN,

Your most obedient humble servant,

DUNDEE, }
APRIL 5. 1796. }

JAMES DONALDSON.

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INTRODUCTION.

AGRICULTURE, though not perhaps the most splendid, certainly the most ancient and useful of all the arts, at an early period of the world, attracted the attention of mankind. This is not surprising, when it is considered how much the existence and prosperity of civil society depend upon it.

Men in the first stage of society, as hunters, must soon have experienced, that the mode of procuring subsistence by the bow or the chase, was attended with infinite toil, precarious in the event, and by no means calculated to supply the wants, or increase the comforts of social life.

In the pastoral state likewise, which may be regarded as the second stage towards the perfection of society, men would soon discover, that though more certain of subsistence, and less exposed to dangers and hardships, yet that their herds and flocks were liable to accidents innumerable, and that they might be reduced at once to all the miseries of famine.

In such circumstances, and with such prospects, it was natural for men to think of the means by which they might, with more certainty, obtain the necessaries of life. For this purpose, they would readily turn their eyes towards

wards the earth, and soon discover, that from it might be drawn whatever could render life comfortable. Experience would soon teach them, that by due cultivation of the soil, fruits and grain of various kinds, full of nourishment for man, could be raised in abundance; and, on the contrary, that by neglecting this art, the natural fertility of the earth, the genial warmth of the sun, and the regular revolutions of the seasons, would be in a great measure unavailing.

Nay, in the more improved stages of civil society, men must see, that the advantages of agriculture are "more certain than the profits of commerce, more permanent than those of manufactures;" and that, since these sources of national wealth do fail, as must frequently happen, the inhabitants of a country may be not only preserved from want, but may enjoy a great degree of prosperity, by the more certain resources of agriculture.

By agriculture, barren deserts are converted into fertile fields, covered with innumerable herds and luxuriant crops, or are clothed with stately timber. The industrious husbandman not only enriches himself, but also advances the general prosperity of the community, and promotes population, in which consists the power and wealth of every state.

In



In a treatise of this nature, some account of the ancient state of agriculture in this island, as well as the means by which that art has gradually arrived at its present improved state, will no doubt be expected; but as a minute detail of these particulars would be inconsistent with the plan of this work, it has therefore been made as concise as possible, so as simply to convey a general idea of the introduction of agriculture into these kingdoms, and of the gradual improvements which have since taken place.

Agriculture was little known in Great Britain till about 150 years before the commencement of the Christian æra, when various tribes of Celtic Gauls, expelled from their native country, which lay between the Rhine and the Seine, took shelter in the south of Britain, where they formed several small states, and practised husbandry, to which they were encouraged by the fertility of the soil, that profusely yielded all kinds of grain.

Cæsar describes the state of Britain, at the time of the Roman invasion, thus: "The island
" of Britain abounds in cattle, and the great-
" est part of those within the country never sow
" their lands, but live on flesh and milk. The
" sea coasts (says he) are inhabited by colonies
" from Belgium, which having established them-
" selves in Britain, began to cultivate the soil*."

When

* Cæsar de Bel. Gal. l. 5. c. 10.

When the Romans had obtained a firm establishment in Britain, agriculture began to be very much improved and extended, being an art in which that renowned people greatly excelled, and which they encouraged in all the provinces of their empire *. Having subdued several of the British states, they endeavoured by various means to induce their new subjects to cultivate their lands. The tribute of a certain quantity of corn, which they imposed on the states that fell under their dominion, obliged the people to apply to agriculture. In a word, the Romans, by their policy and example, so effectually reconciled the Britons to the cultivation of their lands, that in a little time this island became one of the most fertile provinces of the empire, and not only produced a sufficient quantity of corn for the support of its own inhabitants, and the Roman troops, but also afforded every year a great surplus for exportation.

The great number of ships employed by the Emperor Julian, *A. D.* 359, in carrying corn from this island, gives a high idea of the fertility and cultivation of it, in these times : “ Having

* Cato says, “ When the Romans designed to bestow the highest praise on a good man, they used to say he understands agriculture well, and is an excellent husbandman ; for this was esteemed the greatest and most honourable character.”

“ving collected (says the historian) prodigious
“quantities of timber from the woods on the
“banks of the Rhine, he built a fleet of 800
“ships, larger than the common barks, which
“he sent to Britain, to bring corn from thence.
“When this corn arrived, he sent it up the
“Rhine in boats, and furnished the inhabitants
“of these towns and countries, which had been
“plundered by the enemy, with a sufficient
“quantity to support them during the win-
“ter, to sow their lands in the spring, and to
“maintain them till next harvest*.” From
this account, it appears, that agriculture had
been carried to great perfection in Britain, du-
ring the prosperous period of the Roman go-
vernment; but that, like all the other arts, it
was affected by the decline of the Roman
power, and was almost extinguished by the de-
parture of that industrious people. This, how-
ever, was not probably so much owing to the
want of skill in the natives, who had no doubt
been fully instructed in the art of husbandry by
the Romans, before their departure, as to the
cruel

* As certain privileges were granted to those who built
ships above a certain size, it is probable that many of
those above mentioned would contain more than 10,000
Roman modia, or upwards of 300 English quarters; sup-
posing 250 quarters to be the medium, the quantity ex-
ported would amount to 200,000 quarters.

cruel and frequent incursions of the Saxons, Scots and Picts, who not only destroyed the fruits of their labours, but also interrupted them in the exercise of their agricultural operations; for we are told, that when they enjoyed respite from war, and were allowed to cultivate their lands peaceably, the greatest abundance of all kinds of grain was produced.

After the arrival of the Saxons, the Britons were so frequently involved in wars, that they gradually lost much of their skill in agriculture, and were at last expelled from those parts of the country that were most susceptible of cultivation. Agriculture was indeed still considered by the ancient Britons as an object of great importance, as appears from several salutary laws and regulations established by them, for increasing the quantity and improving the quality of their arable grounds; yet it appears, that from the arrival of the Saxons in 449, to the landing of William Duke of Normandy in 1066, the husbandry of Britain sunk to a very low ebb; and England, which in the time of the Romans was one of the greatest granaries of Europe, was so ill cultivated by the Anglo Saxons, that in the most favourable seasons it yielded only a scanty provision for its inhabitants. The operations of agriculture were in general performed by slaves, who having no interest in the success of their labours, executed the tasks imposed upon them,

as

as may be supposed, in a very superficial and slovenly manner.

The conquest of England by the Normans contributed greatly to revive a spirit for agricultural improvements in Britain; in consequence of that event, several thousands of husbandmen from the fertile and well-cultivated plains of Flanders, France and Normandy, settled in the island; and having obtained estates or farms, employed the same modes of cultivation that they had practised in their native countries. Some of the Norman barons, in particular, were great improvers of their lands, and are celebrated in history for their skill in agriculture.

Summer-fallowing the lands, designed for wheat, appears to have been a practice introduced by the Normans, who no doubt improved the implements of husbandry, which they found on the island at their arrival, and added greatly to the number.—The carts, harrows, scythes, sickles, flails, &c. (from the figures of them still remaining) appear to be nearly of the same construction with these now in use, and in two plates of Mr Strutt's complete view of manners, customs, &c. of England, there are figures of several persons engaged in mowing, reaping, threshing and winnowing, in the manner of performing all which operations, there appears little difference from modern practice. From the description of the Norman plough, it appears to have been very

similar to that used in the county of Norfolk at the present day. It is said to have had two wheels, and but one stilt or handle, by which it was managed ; and that in the light soil of Normandy, it was commonly drawn by one or two oxen ; but in the strong soils of England a greater number was often necessary.

Thus after the Normans had obtained a settlement in Britain, agriculture was much improved, and carried on with a considerable degree of spirit. This happy progress, however, was completely interrupted by the disastrous civil wars, between the houses of York and Lancaster, when the unfortunate peasants were no longer permitted to pursue their humble toils in peace, but were liable every moment to be called from the plough into the field of battle, either by a royal proclamation, or by the mandates of their arbitrary lords. Such multitudes were destroyed, by the accidents and fatigues of these most sanguinary and long continued wars, and of those which were carried on by Henry V. and his son, with a view of conquering France, that hands were wanting for the necessary operations of husbandry.

Hence arose those loud complaints of the scarcity of labourers, and of the high price of labour, that introduced many laws, the object of which was to reduce and fix the price of labour, to compel men to become labourers, and husbandmen,

husbandmen, and to restrain them from following other occupations; but these severe laws, which so much infringed natural liberty, though a proof that the evils they were intended to remove, were very sensibly felt, produced not the desired effect.

The scarcity of labourers, and the increasing ravages of war still continuing, a great alteration in the state of agriculture at last took place.

The prelates, barons, and other great proprietors, kept extensive tracts of land around their castles, which they cultivated by slaves and hired servants; but when many of their followers were cut off by war, and hired servants could not be procured on reasonable terms, these great landholders were obliged to inclose their lands, for the purpose of pasturage. This practice of inclosing lands became pretty general in England about the year 1450; and though introduced from necessity, in consequence of the depopulation of the country, which had taken place by means of these long continued wars, yet it has been attended with the most beneficial effects, as it laid a foundation for many of these improvements in agriculture which have been introduced in later times. From that period to the beginning of the present century, or rather to the fortunate æra when a Union between the two kingdoms was happily effected, agriculture seems to have remained stationary,
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and few or no improvements were attempted : Nor is this much to be wondered at ; for whoever will read the history of those times, will find, that the barons or great proprietors, instead of turning their attention to the improvement of their estates, employed themselves in improving the barbarous practice of shedding human blood, while agriculture, and the other useful arts, were allowed to languish and decline *.

From the period when England and Scotland became one kingdom, agriculture, as well as manufactures and commerce, began to revive, though two events which happened afterwards, viz. the Rebellions in 1715 and 1745, operated for a time as a check upon the general introduction of a spirit for either. Indeed, it is only since the middle of the present century, that a spirit for extensive improvements in agriculture has prevailed. That such a spirit does now exist in all ranks connected with agriculture, and that to a degree unknown in this island, since the departure of the Romans, is a truth established beyond contradiction : It may therefore be deemed a happy presage of the future agricultural improvements of these kingdoms, that at a period, like the present, so peculiarly favourable in this respect, a gentleman of rank and fortune †, possessing the true spirit of patriotism, has

* See Henry's History of Great Britain.

† Sir John Sinclair, Baronet.

has come forward for the express purpose of calling the attention of this great nation to its most important concerns, namely, the improvement of its soil; and that from his unremitting exertions, he has been called, in the most honourable manner, to preside at a Board*, composed of the first official and private characters; persons equally distinguished by high rank, abilities, independent fortune, and love of agriculture, from whose united exertions, under the auspices of a Monarch and a Parliament, invariably disposed to promote industry, and the permanent increase of the wealth and prosperity of this island, the most beneficial consequences may be expected to ensue.

As the population of this kingdom has greatly increased within these fifty years, it will be readily allowed, that it becomes a duty incumbent on the Legislature to exert every nerve, to procure an additional supply of food, for any increase of population which may be expected to take place; so that events, such as the late alarming emigrations from the Highlands and isles of Scotland, which can never be mentioned without regret in the history of Britain, and which were only put a stop to in consequence of a strong penal statute, may never more appear in the annals of our country. By these emigrations, swarms of people were for

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* The Board of Agriculture.

ever lost to this nation, and doomed to seek in the wilds of America, that subsistence which it was then thought their native land could no longer afford them; whereas they might have remained useful and valuable members of the state, (many thousands of them probably employed fighting in the cause of their country), had the fostering hand of Government been held out to detain them, and to point out the way by which they could, from their labours, have procured food for themselves and their families. It will scarcely be credited in future times, that at the close of the eighteenth century, (when the commerce and manufactures of these kingdoms had increased to an extent unknown in any former age; and at a period too, when there were several millions of acres of uncultivated lands in England and Scotland; nay, when there were a great many thousand acres of waste lands, the exclusive property of the Crown), that so many industrious and faithful subjects (bred to agriculture), were forced to leave their native country, and seek the means of subsistence in a foreign land. At present however, every lover of his country contemplates with delight the prospect which begins to open. Mankind, it is hoped, will learn wisdom from past experience; and the legislators and proprietors of Great Britain will give such

such encouragement to the hardy and industrious peasant, as may preclude the necessity of future emigration. By making it his interest to remain at home, to cultivate and improve his native soil, they will increase the wealth, population, and general prosperity of these kingdoms, which, with all their faults and imperfections, have long been, and still are, the subject of admiration and astonishment to surrounding nations.

The compiler of the following sheets, not being professionally a man of letters, cannot be supposed to express his sentiments in that purity and classical elegance of style for which many writers of the present times are distinguished. But as he conceives it is the matter rather than the form, that constitutes the principal merit of a performance of this nature, he flatters himself, that he is not altogether unqualified for the execution of the important work he has undertaken. For many years of his life, he has had occasion to attend minutely to the modes of husbandry practised in South as well as North Britain; and in the course of his surveys in both, he has endeavoured to collect every sort of information regarding the present state of stock and agriculture, and to investigate the plans to be adopted for future improvements in either.

In this effort, to illustrate a subject of the greatest national importance, no pains have been spared.

spared. He has only to add, that he will consider the thought, the labour, and the time he has bestowed on this work, as amply rewarded, if he shall contribute in any degree to call the attention of his countrymen to this most interesting and important subject; and that he will feel the most sincere satisfaction, if his endeavours shall meet the public approbation.

CHAP.

MODERN AGRICULTURE ;



PRESENT STATE OF HUSBANDRY

IN

GREAT BRITAIN.

CHAP. I.

*Natural and acquired Advantages enjoyed by
Great Britain, in favour of Agriculture.*

IN this preliminary number, it is proposed to give a general view of the advantages which Great Britain enjoys, in regard to agriculture. Such a view, if well exhibited, must be no less pleasing to every friend of his country, than proper, as an immediate introduction to a work which has for its object the state and improvement of agriculture in this island.

VOL. I.

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The natural and acquired advantages of Great Britain, in regard to agriculture, can only be demonstrated from a thorough knowledge of the country, and many particulars respecting it. The compiler, uninfluenced by national prejudices, shall treat only of facts consistent with his own information, or founded upon the authority of respectable writers.

The island of Great Britain, comprehending England, Scotland, and Wales, (according to the best geographers), extends from 50° to $58^{\circ} 30'$ north latitude. According to some who pretend to geometrical accuracy, the length of the island, from north to south, in a direct line, is 632 miles English. From Doverhead, east, to the Landsend, west, it has been computed about 290 miles; but as, in stretching towards the north, the form of the island is very irregular, and in some places much contracted, allowance must be made in calculating its dimensions.

From a calculation made by Mr Templeman, admired for its accuracy, England and Wales contain 31,648,000 acres, and Scotland 17,788,000 acres; so that England and Scotland contain in all 49,436,000 acres*.

Such, in point of extent, is Great Britain; bounded on the south, by the English Channel; on the east, by the German Sea; on the north, by the

* See Campbell's Political Survey, Vol. I. chap. iv. p. 47. and Vol. II. chap. i.

the Northern Ocean ; on the west, by the great Atlantic and St George's Channel, which separates it from Ireland ; having contiguous to its coasts, especially towards the north and west, many small dependent isles. As political writers have, in general, given a preference to insular situations, it may be supposed that Great Britain, from being an island, possesses advantages denied to continental lands. The natural, as well as acquired advantages of Britain, in regard to agriculture, may be included under the following heads or sections.

I. The climate, on the whole, favourable to agriculture.

II. The soil, its nature and varieties favourable for raising crops of different kinds, and for rearing horses, cattle, &c.

III. Populousness of Great Britain, and the disposition of the people at large, to labour and industry.

IV. Circumstance of Great Britain being seldom the seat of war.

V. Nature of the British government, which secures to every one the fruits of industry.

VI.

VI. Bays, harbours, navigable rivers, canals, turnpike-roads, &c.

VII. Means of improving the soil, which may be obtained from the earth, sea, lakes, &c. such as marl, lime, sea-weeds, sea-sand, and the like.

VIII. Woodlands, plantations, &c. producing, besides shelter, timber for constructing farm-houses, implements of husbandry, &c.

IX. Relative situation of Great Britain, in regard to other countries.

X. The flourishing manufactures, and immense commerce of Great Britain.

S E C.

SECTION I.

The Climate, on the whole, favourable to Agriculture.

It may be proper to begin with climate, as being the first natural advantage of every country : That which is absolutely requisite for animal as well as vegetable life ; that without which, soil and cultivation will avail little ; for although soil may be improved with complete success, climate cannot, to any considerable extent.

It is well known, that besides the particular situation of a country on the globe, other circumstances combine in forming its climate ; such as its elevation, proximity to oceans, seas, mountains, marshes, soil, and the like ; upon such natural causes the climate of Britain depends, and from these receives its character.

There are three distinct characteristics of our climate, that cannot escape the observation of those who have made it an object of attention, and from which its advantages or disadvantages must appear: 1st, Its mildness; 2^d, Its variability; and, 3^d, Those productions dependent on climate.

The first distinguished feature of the climate of Britain is mildness.

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From the high degree of north latitude in which Britain is placed, one would not at first suppose, that its air should be naturally mild ; yet, on being compared with the temperature of other countries in the same parallel of latitude, it is certainly entitled to this character. The city of Moscow, about half a degree south of Edinburgh, is very different in point of climate. In the former city, so rigorous is the winter, that it is not uncommon for people to perish by cold ; the lips, noses, ears, and fingers of the inhabitants, are frequently frost-bit, and water thrown from a window falls on the ground in ice ; such severe effects of cold may be said to be unexperienced in the latter city, or in any part of the island *.

The island of Newfoundland, a distant branch of the British empire, lies in a lower latitude than England, and yet the extreme colds in winter, and the excessive heats in summer, render it very disagreeable to the inhabitants.

The same holds in regard to Canada, though situated in the 48° of north latitude. The climate, in point of mildness, is not equal to that of the mother country. Nay, in point of mildness, Britain excels lands on the Continent, which one would think should have naturally enjoyed a softer climate. We hear with surprise

* It is worthy of remark, that Moscow stands near 500 miles from the sea.

surprise of the great falls of snow, the severe and long continued frosts, the sudden transition from these to sultry heats, excessive rains, destructive hurricanes, and tremendous thunder storms, lightnings, and earthquakes, which scourge those countries, whose inhabitants we are ready to envy on account of their favourable climate; while, unconscious of our own happiness in this respect, we little think, that, in general, we breathe a purer air, untainted by noxious vapours, and fiery particles, that engender disease and death. In winter too, our bodies are seldom so cramped with cold, or in summer so relaxed by heat, as to unfit us for pastime or labour.

This singular felicity of Britain, as to climate, may be accounted for, from its connection with the ocean. That immense body, from being always in motion, from never freezing, and from constantly inhaling the rays of the sun, possesses a considerable degree of natural warmth. Of consequence the vapours exhaled from the sea, by the action of the sun, and which necessarily partake of the same warmth, when they mingle with our atmosphere, must soften the coldness of the air. This is effected more especially by the south-west winds, which are prevalent in Britain. These, by the time they have crossed the Atlantic, and reached our coasts, must be charged with those nutritive salts and genial vapours, which, being impregnated with the colder air

of Britain, descend in gentle dews and rains that fertilize the soil. The same holds, though not in an equal degree, in regard to the wind that blows from the north : Though colder than the west wind, in as much as it proceeds from countries nearer the Pole, yet, in passing over the ocean, it imbibes a portion of its warmth ; and when it reaches Britain, is comparatively warmer than when crossing the frozen mountains of the north. Hence, the reason why snow seldom lies above a few days on the lands adjacent to the sea-coast ; hence too, the influence of sea-breezes, operating with other internal causes, namely, the natural fertility and warmth of the soil, the extensive woods and plantations, with those canals and rivers that carry off superfluous water, the high state of cultivation, the many cities, towns, villages, houses, and animals, all combine in tempering the climate of Britain ; in so much, that it cannot be said that, in any part of the island, (high lands excepted), the climate is so intemperate, as to prevent grass growing, grain ripening, or the inhabitants from enjoying the comforts of life.

Upon the whole, it appears, that a happy concurrence of circumstances, renders the climate of Britain milder than that of other countries, which, from their local situation on the globe, might be expected to enjoy a more desirable temperature.

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The second distinct feature of our climate, is variableness. Like the ocean, that encompasses the island, our climate has been represented as inconstant, unsettled, varying in the space of a few hours, from dry to moist, from heat to cold, from clear to cloudy, and from the most pleasant serenity, to all the violence of tempest. He must indeed be an enthusiastic admirer of the climate of Great Britain, who can give it a preference in point of uniform steadiness, to the climates of some continental countries. It must be admitted, that Britain does not enjoy that permanency of clear and warm weather, nor that agreeable vicissitude of seasons peculiar to some kingdoms; nor is this possible, without the subversion of those laws, which regulate seasons and their changes. Upon the principles already laid down, it is obvious, that the island of Great Britain, washed upon three sides by immense bodies of water, must necessarily be affected thereby; and it is impossible, that its climate should be so uniformly steady as that of other countries, situate in the centre of a vast continent, and sheltered by ranges of mountains, from the frequent inclemencies of winds and waves.

To such natural causes must be ascribed the sudden and frequent variations of our climate, felt at times, so uncomfortable by the natives; and which draw from those habituated to more

constant climes, heavy complaints against our atmosphere.

These irregularities of climate, however disagreeable, lay a foundation for advantages more substantial than any that result from a more pleasant and steady temperature of the air. It is not in countries where the seasons of heat and cold, wind and rain are periodical, or where the greatest regularity of climate takes place, that mankind are most vigorous, or the fruits of the earth most perfect. There is a sameness of climate, as well as of other things that is prejudicial to man. Besides, the air from being long acted upon by heat or cold, moisture or dryness, is put into a state no less unfriendly to vegetable, than animal tribes. But in Britain, the air, from being refined and quickened by the frequent changes it undergoes, is in little danger of being affected by such causes.

In spring, it must be admitted, that the country is frequently drenched with rain, and the seed-time, of course, interrupted. But, excessive as the rains sometimes are, their bad effects are generally prevented by the keen sharp winds and dry air that quickly follow; in so much, that a few days after, it cannot be known that such weather had prevailed. It accordingly seldom happens in Britain, that the active husbandman is prevented by the inconstancy of the weather, from plowing the land, and sowing the seed in season :

season: seldom is that seed killed in the earth, or when sprung, withered in its tender blade, either by untimely frost, or inclement winds.

In summer, the verdure of our hills, and luxuriance of our crops, are seldom blasted by a long continuance of dry scorching weather, or immoderate falls of rain. Sunshine and shade, genial warmth and moisture, succeed in grateful variety, and render our summer no less delightful to man than friendly to vegetation.

The climate in harvest resembles that of spring, the weather suddenly shifting from ripening showers and mild sunshine, to heavy clouds and sudden bursts of rain, that seem to threaten the promised harvest. Yet often when the heart of the husbandman is ready to despond, he beholds the season return in all its beauty, and has reason to acknowledge with gratitude the truth, that seed-time and harvest have not failed.

From autumn to the end of the year, the climate of Britain is most variable, and its inconsistency is the more ungrateful, from the advanced period of the season. Then the days, as well as nights, are liable to frequent changes, veering between frost and thaw, snow and rain, clearness and fogs; while often obscure and joyless rains descend, which deform the face of nature, and depress the spirit of man: yet it should be remembered, that these rains fall at a
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period when the fruits of the year are secured, when nature repofes (with the husbandman) after labour, and when, from the fhortnefs of the day, little can be done without, and men are difpofed to enjoy comfortable fociety within doors.

Philofophers alfo maintain, that our rains, in confequence of proceeding more immediately from the ocean, are more pure and more impregnated with falts, than the rains which fall in moft other countries ; and though fometimes falling in prodigious quantities, yet tend to fertilize the foil.

The climate of Britain in winter, partakes of the fame variablenefs that diftinguifhes it in other feafons. Sometimes the weather is open, and mild : at other times froft fets in, and is fucceeded by heavy falls of fnow, which cover, for weeks, the furface of the earth. However much the inhabitants may then fuffer from the inclemency of cold, it is generally underftood, that the effects of froft and fnow are, upon the whole, friendly to vegetation. Froft, by expending the water or moifture contained in the foil, feparates the particles of earth from each other, and thus renders the foil more loofe, tender and friable, than it would have otherwife been. This holds, efpecially in regard to tough clay, upon which froft acts with a falutary effect, by reducing its ftubborn nature, and rendering it more fit for vegetation. The fnows, fo frequent in Britain during

during winter, tend in various ways to fertilize the soil. Our winter snows, by covering the roots of vegetables, such as rye, wheat, &c. preserve them from the killing colds of the atmosphere. By snow covering the surface of the earth, its heat is cherished. Upon the principles of those who make oil the food of plants, snow must necessarily be a great fertilizer of the soil from the oily particles it contains. Besides, snow when it melts, moistens, and separates the soil, which had been bound up by the frost; and, as its water tends to putrefaction, it must, independently of the nitrous particles with which it is supposed to be impregnated, be greatly in favour of vegetation*.

Here, too, it is worthy of remark, that this variableness of climate tends to confirm the health of the natives, and to render them vigorous and active, capable of enduring fatigue, and less liable to be affected by sudden transitions from heat to cold, from serene to tempestuous weather, than the people of other countries. In fine, if the climate of Britain be less agreeable than some others, it has more variety; and to such as may be disposed to complain of its inconstancy, it may be observed in the words of Charles I. who had the experience of many climates, "That there is no country in Europe, where a man can be out of doors, with pleasure," "sure,

* Watson's Chem. Ess. vol. 2. p. 77, &c.

“sure, so many hours in a day, or so many days
“in a year.”

The third criterion of the climate of Britain is its productions. From these the excellence or the defects of climate must be ascertained. These are evidences to which a safe appeal may be made. They are not like natural causes, liable to be mistaken or misrepresented, but are open to the inspection of all. The productions dependent on climate are plants, flowers, trees, grain of all kinds, nay, animals, such as men, horses, cattle, sheep, &c. Upon a fair comparison of these with similar productions of other climates, a just estimate of the excellence of the climate of Great Britain may be formed.

It is true, that there are fruits of various kinds that cannot arrive at maturity in Britain. Some natives of the Torrid Zone, when imported here, quickly languish and die; others, when introduced with much fostering care, may thrive for a season, yet from the influence of the air are soon stunted in their growth, and degenerate. But such fruits in general contribute only in a small degree to the subsistence of those who enjoy them, and may be regarded rather as luxuries than necessities of life.

Wheat, barley, oats, pease, beans, rye, cattle, sheep, swine, poultry, &c. are the great articles which constitute the food of man; and these

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our climate is calculated to produce in plenty and perfection.

If any judgment may be formed of our climate, from the natives of the island, a fair opportunity is presented, to expatiate with a pardonable vain glory on the excellence of the British climate.

In regard to the looks, stature, strength, agility, and other endowments characteristic of man, no where under the canopy of heaven are to be found people that indicate a more favourable clime. Where are men more handsome, and of an appearance more athletic? As for the women, they are not surpassed by those of any country, in beauty and fine proportions. Where are human beings that exhibit the species in nobler traits or a fairer aspect? Where are mortals liable to fewer diseases, more active, hardy and longer lived? Under what climate has the human mind more exerted its powers? Where has a government more excellent been realized? Where has religion been adopted in greater purity? In what country have greater kings ruled, wiser statesmen planned, heroes more illustrious fought, patriots more disinterested bled? Where have we beheld philosophers more profound, genius more acute, taste more delicate, wit more refined, discoveries greater in art and science?

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In regard to the lower animals that are natives of Britain, it may be affirmed with truth, that they are not inferior to those of the same kind in any country. Where are horses of greater strength and swiftness to be found? Where breeds of cattle, sheep, swine, poultry, wild fowl, game, and the like, superior to those in Britain?

But without dwelling longer on a subject which it is not easy to touch, without a secret conscious pride, it shall only farther be observed, that if climate has an influence in forming a national character, and if from the latter any conclusion may be drawn as to the character of the former, sure no climate may be pronounced better adapted for man, as well as the lower animals, than that of Great Britain.

Upon the whole, from the comparative mildness of our climate, from its varieties, by no means unfriendly to vegetation, and the perfection of fruits, and from the productions which depend on climate, it appears, that in regard to this first and great natural advantage of a country, Great Britain has been highly favoured.

SECTION II.

The Soil of Great Britain, its Nature and Varieties, favourable for raising Crops of different kinds, and for rearing Horses, Cattle, &c.

IN Great Britain, an island of considerable extent, and diversified in point of surface, a great variety of soils may naturally be expected.

To enumerate all the different soils which run into one another by imperceptible shades, or to analyse with a chemical exactness their component parts, or to pretend to explain how these operate towards vegetation, is not necessary for the point in view. It is sufficient to know, that the following soils, which prevail throughout Britain, are calculated to produce in abundance those wholesome fruits requisite for the support of the inhabitants, viz. vegetable mould, as black, gray, brown and red, varying from a dry, light, sandy or gravelly soil, to a deep, strong, rich, loamy earth, clays of various kinds, &c. &c*. The best proof of the excellence of such soils, is an appeal to their productions.

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* Much valuable information on this subject will be found in Campbell's Political Survey.

In no country do vegetables make nobler shoots than in Great Britain. In no land can be found richer herbage, more luxuriant fields of corn, grain of a superior quality, particular fruits of a more delicious flavour, flowers more variegated, plants more healthy, trees of the garden or forest kind more flourishing and hardy.

That person must be insensible of the beauties of the vegetable world, displayed in sweetest profusion, who can survey many of the counties in England, and several of those districts in Scotland, which resemble for soil and productions well cultivated gardens, without feeling the justness of the description of the Poet :

“ Happy Britannia :———

“ Rich is thy soil, and merciful thy clime ;

“ Thy streams unfailing in the summer's drought ;

“ Unmatch'd thy guardian oaks ; thy vallies float

“ With golden waves : And on thy mountains flocks—

“ Bleat numberless ; while roving round their sides,

“ Bellow the blackening herds in lusty droves :

“ Beneath, thy meadows glow, and rise unquell'd

“ Against the mower's scythe. On every hand

“ Thy villas shine. Thy country teems with wealth.”

THOMSON.

In a word, the productions of our soil may vie with those of the same kind in any country, and evince, that the soil which nature has conferred

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on Britain, is scarcely inferior to that of the most fertile countries of Europe.

It cannot, however, be denied, that notwithstanding the many excellent varieties of soil in Britain, the proportion of poor and barren soil greatly predominates. Whoever has made the tour of the island, must have perceived this. The many neglected spots that in the richest counties deform the landscape; the immense tracts of barren and dreary heaths which are seen in some parts of England and Wales, but more especially in the Highlands of Scotland; the stupendous piles of bare and rocky mountains, that exhibit the appearance of sterility in the extreme, induce the traveller to form conclusions by no means favourable to the character of the soil of this island.

But Britain is not singular in this respect.— There is no country of great extent in which uniform rich soil prevails. In all, irregular, broken and mountainous regions, with a similar proportion of good and bad soil are to be found as in Britain; even in kingdoms, said to be blessed in regard to soil, vast tracts of sandy, moorish, marshy, and other unproductive lands, are to be seen.

It is impossible, that all parts of the earth should be equally fruitful, or equally well cultivated; and it is wrong to conclude, that those parts

parts of the earth, left of necessity in a state of nature, are useless.

The dry and cheerless waste, the dark mountain, the naked rock, and inaccessible cliff, are no longer regarded as blanks in the map of Britain. These are not now appropriated entirely to animals of chase, or fowls which furnish game for the sportsman.

Their value has of late begun to be ascertained. It is now found, that these regions, to appearance barren, contribute their share to the wealth and population of Britain, as well as lands of the richest soil. This is confirmed by the many thousands of cattle and sheep, and hardy horses, reared in some of the western districts of England, the mountains of Wales, and the Highlands of Scotland, which form an immense staple commodity, and many of which are annually carried to markets in the cultivated parts of the kingdom. These may be regarded as the unfailing productions of the soil of the rugged and waste parts of the island, and they bid fair to rival for excellence, what has or can be brought from similar pastures in any other country in Europe.

Although, from the barrenness of the soil in some places, as well as from its elevated and inaccessible situation in others, a great portion of Britain, must probably for ever remain in a state of nature; yet there is no reason to complain of
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want of soil for the purpose of agriculture, when it is considered how many thousand acres of excellent land, highly susceptible of cultivation, are as yet untouched by the plough throughout the kingdom; neither can it form any objection against the soil of Britain, that such neglected spots cannot be converted into corn-fields without labour and expence. No soil will produce spontaneously rich crops. Even the boasted soil of America can only be brought to yield in abundance by the expenditure of labour and money; and were our farmers and peasantry at home, as indefatigably industrious in draining, clearing, and dressing the waste lands, which require such operations, as the poor emigrants, who have been deluded abroad by romantic schemes of wealth, a happy change would soon be visible on the face of the country. The barren mountain would be covered with verdure, and the putrid marsh converted into corn-fields. Experience shows, that the improvements which industry is capable of working on the soil are very great; even the most indifferent soil may be forced to change its nature, and become highly productive. This is obvious to all who have remarked the lands in the neighbourhood of many towns and villages, where frequently the most plentiful crops are beheld on spots, which, previous to the labours of industry, could support no vegetable. It has been remarked,
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that those counties in England the most barren in point of soil, are in fact the best cultivated and the most productive, by affording incentives to that degree of industry and art, which the cultivators of more fertile soils, that yield almost spontaneously the richest fruits of nature, have little occasion to exert. Instead then of repining that every acre of Great Britain is not equally fertile, it is the duty of every man to cultivate that portion assigned him, in the assurance, that there is hardly any spot which may not be meliorated by industry, and from which a suitable return may not be obtained.

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SECTION III.

The Populousness of Great Britain, and the disposition of the People at Large to labour and Industry.

In every nation, improvements in agriculture depend much on the disposition of the people at large to labour and industry. When the inhabitants are so few as to be unequal to the due cultivation of the soil, agriculture must be necessarily checked in its progress. When the people in a nation, though sufficient in point of numbers, are indolent, or averse to rural labour, improvements in agriculture will be slow; but when they are numerous, active, and inclined to labour, it is reasonable to conclude, that agriculture, if not prevented by casual obstacles, will flourish.

The population of Great Britain, which has increased prodigiously of late, is at present reckoned about ten millions *. Of these many are now employed in the army and navy; many in our

* In an after chapter of this work, we will have occasion to ascertain this more particularly, and from the best authorities.

our daily extending commerce and manufactures, and many in the operations of husbandry. From the increasing demands for men in every occupation, joined to the considerable emigrations from this to foreign lands, some may apprehend, that hands for the purposes of agriculture will be wanting. In former times, had so many been abstracted from the plough, there would have been ground for such apprehensions. But it should be remembered, that not only labour, but the number of necessary labourers in the various departments of husbandry, have of late been much reduced. Perhaps one third of those who a century ago were kept drudging in the clumsy operations of husbandry, can now be spared for the business of manufactures, commerce, or the profession of arms.

The present crisis evinces the truth of this. Though many thousands have in the course of the last two years been called to act as soldiers, it does not appear that agriculture has languished for a want of labouring servants, nor that complaints to this effect have been heard from the farmer. The present exigencies of the State, shew the resources of Britain, in regard to men; and it is not with this as with many other countries, where a great national exertion cannot be made without checking the progress of agriculture, producing a famine, and ruining the public weal.

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But a sufficient stock of servants for every purpose of husbandry, is an advantage enjoyed by Great Britain, not more favourable to the interests of agriculture than the character of its peasantry. Under the designation of peasantry, may be included all, who, in the country, hold houses and lands of proprietors, or by sublease, and who, though they may employ labouring servants, yet, from necessity or choice, apply themselves chiefly to rural affairs, and who may be literally said to earn their bread by the sweat of their brow. These, in every civilized state, are a great body, and though not the most splendid, form a very important link in the chain of society. Upon these, depends the real greatness or wealth of a nation. By these, its prosperity or ruin is determined. When these are well affected to their condition, external enemies may be repelled, and internal reduced, while improvements in the useful arts will go on. But, if the peasantry of a country be dissatisfied, the bond of social concord is broken; and under such circumstances, agriculture must necessarily decline.

No kingdom of the same extent can boast of a more numerous and respectable peasantry than Britain. Satisfied, in general, with that lot which Providence has assigned to them, they aspire not beyond their sphere; while for sobriety, honesty and industry, they are surpassed by none. These

dispositions they have obtained, partly from the examples which their ancestors set before them, partly from their education, or the strong hold that the principles of religion and morality have taken of their minds. And the happy tendency of such dispositions, to form their characters as men, no less than improvers of the soil, must be obvious. By a regard for honesty, they are restrained from acts of fraud and injustice, so detrimental to civil improvements. From a disposition to sobriety, they are preserved from those excesses which waste time, health and substance. From a disposition to toil, they are prompted to cultivate and improve the grounds which they occupy, to save the expence of hired servants, they train their children to work; and, thus lay up a fund for supporting themselves in the decline of life.

It must be admitted, that the peasantry of Britain are attached to the ancient modes of husbandry, and are not inclined to adopt new methods. But though slow to follow, they will follow, in the sure track of improvement, when thoroughly convinced, that in so doing, their interests will be effectually promoted. For it may be affirmed, with truth, of them, that they have sense to discover, and resolution to adhere, steadily to their real interests. Accordingly, every friend of agriculture must observe with pleasure, that of late the peasantry throughout Britain have
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begun

begun to give up their old-fashioned and imperfect mode, by adopting in its stead that more perfect system which proprietors have recommended, and enlightened farmers reduced to practice. Now, they begin to discern the advantages to be obtained from a regular rotation in cropping, and the uses of green crops. They likewise discern the propriety of preparing the soil for various kinds of crops, by cleaning, draining, fallowing and manuring. Nay, a taste for cleanliness of person and dress, no less than for comfortable houses, and good living, with the conveniencies of life, has begun to appear among the peasantry, in many parts of Britain, which is a sure indication of progressive improvement, and must naturally excite a spirit of industry in those among whom it prevails.

At the present juncture, when the subjects of one state are in danger of being injured with the madness which reigns in other states; when many, carried away by equalising ideas that correspond not with any possible state of human society, manifest dispositions unfriendly to law, good government, subordination, and improvements of every kind, it is certainly becoming the British Legislature and the landed interest, to cherish and support the peasantry, who shew themselves attached no less to the soil than to the Government of the country, and who desire only to lead sober, honest and peaceable lives,

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in the exercise of those virtues, which prove them to be good men and good subjects.

It would be improper to conclude this section, without observing, that Great Britain is not more indebted to its populousness, and the character of its peasantry, for improvements in agriculture, than it is to the character and dispositions of its nobility, gentry, yeomanry, and respectable farmers. These certainly, in their several spheres, have all contributed greatly to bring agriculture to its present highly improved state. Had not these persevered in leading the way, the peasantry could never have followed. The former possessing intelligence and the command of money, have it in their power to make these experiments, which, in the end, tend to real improvements in agriculture; while, at the same time, they can suggest and inculcate on their tenants those regulations and modes of husbandry which experience has proved to be most advantageous. Nay, they can do more. They may encourage and support such as manifest a laudable spirit of industry and improvement, and discountenance all who shew a contrary disposition. Much, no doubt, has been done of late in this way, by some great proprietors. They have set an example, and exhorted and encouraged their tenantry to adopt that system which is judged the best; and it must be pleasing to such, to find that their laudable endeavours are not in vain.

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The yeomanry in England, and the respectable farmers in Scotland, who form a middle link between the peasantry and the great proprietors, soon imbibed the spirit which shewed itself in their superiors, and, even now, rival them in agricultural improvements. But as in the sequel there will be occasion to mark the particular improvements of this liberal and enlightened class, we shall take our leave of them at present, by observing, that the happy change in the mode of husbandry, with the improvements made of late in agriculture, have in a great measure been owing to their adopting with alacrity the system recommended by gentlemen of rank and fortune.

S E C.

SECTION IV.

The Circumstance of Britain being seldom the Seat of War.

WAR, though occasionally justifiable and necessary, is an evil that every friend of mankind must deplore. Whatever good in the end may result from war, in its nature it implies a suspension of that amity and those kind offices which should ever subsist among all the children of the same parent. Even when carried on, as it generally now is, on principles more humane and reasonable than in former times, still war has in its train fire and sword, violence and destruction. For though contending parties may be supposed to be animated by no outrageous hatred towards each other, and have no desire to break through those general laws which civilized nations, when in a state of war, have imposed on themselves, yet men, when exasperated by the carnage of their friends, or intoxicated with victory, frequently violate the sacred rights of humanity, and perpetrate deeds of injustice, rapine and murder, too shocking to relate.

War, when carried on in the gentlest manner, is very adverse to the peaceful art of agriculture. For, in that country which happens to be the seat of war, the husbandman may be either necessitated

cessitated to take up arms to repel the foe, or, he may be required to hold himself in a state of requisition on the event of any disaster befalling the armies of his country ; Or, should his personal services be dispensed with, the exigencies of the state may exact from him extraordinary contributions of money, carriages, corn, and other necessaries. But these are not the greatest evils that the farmer has to struggle with, when war rages in that country of which he is an inhabitant.

It cannot be expected that an enemy should treat him more kindly than his friends. If he is liable to be laid under contributions by the latter, he may lay his account with more disagreeable exactions from the former. Invading armies must unavoidably experience the want of certain necessaries, with which they cannot be regularly supplied from their own country. And, when in want of these, it is not easy for their leaders, however much inclined, to prevent them from seizing the property of individuals. Nay, armies, friendly as well as hostile, are frequently reduced to such circumstances, as to be under the necessity, for the sake of their own preservation, to destroy or carry off the goods of the farmer. To check the progress of an invading foe, it is deemed at times, good policy to lay waste the country, that by a less evil a greater may be prevented.

War

War in any country, necessarily involves in it a state of alarm and insecurity, and militates greatly against the interests of agriculture. When the quiet of the husbandman is broken by the unusual sight of foreign foes, and bodies of armed men, and his fields occupied by military encampments, with little ardour can he carry on his operations of husbandry. He has small encouragement to sow, when he knows not whether he shall reap, and little inducement to rear cattle, when they are liable to be seized on by violent hands. The more opulent he is, the more he finds himself in danger of being pillaged. He regards poverty as the best security for his life, and living unmolested. Harassed by incessant fears about his property, his life, and the safety of all that he holds dear; uncertain of the event of war, or what revolutions his country may experience, he exists in a state of painful suspense, and neglects the improvement of his farm, which formerly constituted his great study and delight.

To the alarms and calamities of war, the British farmer has long been happily a stranger. This most desirable exemption he enjoys from Britain being an island; and from the union of the two kingdoms, which were once so hostile to each other. Previous to this, when England and Scotland subsisted as separate and independent nations, Britain, during many ages, was
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the almost incessant theatre of unnatural and ruinous wars. But, from the æra of the Union of the two kingdoms, which has been attended with the most beneficial consequences, it is well known that no war has existed in Britain, excepting two rebellions, which were soon extinguished, and which, though fatal to many individuals, yet, upon the whole, conduced to the public good. For by these the stability of the present government was proved. Men of all ranks, in both kingdoms, were disposed to profit from past errors, to bury in oblivion past animosities, and to mingle together, independently of national distinctions, as one people, firmly attached to one king, and one government.

The inhabitants of Great Britain have accordingly, for half a century, enjoyed undisturbed quiet. Though the nation, during that period, has been engaged in frequent wars, this island has remained at rest: These wars, being either carried on in the extremities of the empire, upon the continent of Europe, or upon the ocean, that element so friendly to the British, and upon which their prowess has for ages been most eminently displayed. Even at this day, when the nations on the continent alternately experience the miseries of war, Britain lifts its head in the ocean, as the island of peace, and as the asylum of the persecuted. In this season of alarm to the nations, still the British farmer may, and

even now does prosecute his useful labours, without any cause to make him afraid. Under the auspices of Heaven, favouring the great national exertions that have been made, and which are still continued, in order to put this island in a respectable state of defence, he still sits peaceably under his own fig tree, in the full and undisturbed possession of all his privileges. This exemption from war, and its concomitant evils, enjoyed by the inhabitants of Britain, is an unspeakable blessing; but, like all the gifts of Providence, is liable to be less valued, when long possessed without interruption. By putting ourselves in the situation of those who have been ruined by war, a just idea may be formed of the blessings we enjoy, and how favourable these are for improvements in agriculture, and every useful art.

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SECTION V.

The Nature of the British Government, which secures to every one the Fruits of Industry.

SECURITY of property is one great end of civil government. For this man was induced to resign a part of his private rights, and to subject himself to the regulations of a social state. From that established government of which he is a member, every individual has a right to expect this; and that which secures liberty and the enjoyment of property in the best possible way is the most perfect government; but this is not attainable by any government which subjects all to the will of one, nor by that which allows the powerful to oppress the weak, the turbulent to invade the peaceful, or the wicked to plunder the good. Such governments, in their principles, are disorderly, tyrannical and unjust; and though supported by force, and tolerated by subjects, serve very imperfectly the purposes of such establishments.

This great and desirable end can only be accomplished by that government, which, independently of all contracted views and selfish passions, assumes for its foundation the immutable laws

laws of right, and which has for its sole object the general good. Such a government must be the genuine offspring of a constitution that is not the device of a day, but which has been forming during ages, and with the sanction has received the accumulated wisdom of ages: A constitution having in itself a principle of improvement, in consequence of which it tends by imperceptible degrees towards perfection. By this constitution every possible provision to render man comfortable in the social state will be suggested, while the lives, properties, and real interests of men, individually as well as collectively, will be fully ascertained, asserted, and guaranteed. Whatever privileges and immunities are consistent with, or productive of the general good, will be obtained by this constitution in the most natural way, and with the least expence. From this will originate a degree of freedom, incompatible with, and unknown under other human governments, and which by the truly wise will be deemed next to perfect freedom. By this the Majesty of law will be revered as supreme, and the greatest, no less than the meanest, bound to do it homage. This will constitute the King the first Magistrate of the State, and only the minister of the laws; yet royalty by this will not be stript of its glory, nor true greatness of its honours. From recognising the Sovereign of the country,

only as the executor of the laws, and by these determined in all his conduct, every subject must feel, that he cannot deprive the meanest of life or property without the sanction of the law, while he enjoys the glorious prerogative of shewing mercy.

By such a constitution, the character of a prince will be formed, and his virtues trained. He will be taught to regard his subjects not as slaves, but as free men; and himself not as a tyrant, but one to whom they have committed the most sacred and important trust; namely, the protection of their lives, properties, and whatever they hold dear. From such considerations, he must be naturally led to love them, and must necessarily make it his chief study to seek their good. By the same constitution his people will be taught to look up to him as the guardian of their rights, and the father of his country. Thus will a proper understanding be established between king and subjects; they will be dear to him as children, and with the affection of a parent he will seek their good. He will reign in their hearts, and their respect for his person, and obedience to his mandates, will not be inspired by slavish fear, but free love. His government formed upon, and administered agreeably to the principles of such a constitution, cannot fail to obtain for his subjects the great objects of all good government.

ment. But this is no other than an imperfect draught of the principle of that constitution which Great Britain enjoys, and which secures to every one his life and property in the most complete manner. In proof of this fact, an appeal may be safely made to every subject of the British government. Is it not known to all in this land of freedom that, the King, although disposed, can neither imprison, punish, nor put to death, contrary to law. He cannot impose even necessary taxes or any burdens upon his subjects, without the consent of those who represent them in Parliament.

Nay, though necessity might justify the measure, he cannot interrupt the husbandman in his rural labours, by forcing him to become a soldier, nor seize his property, nor molest him in the least degree, while he does no wrong. That protection of life, and security of property, which our constitution is admirably calculated to procure, is the birth-right of the meanest, as well as the greatest, and is a privilege enjoyed by all subjects of the British empire, in a degree unexperienced under other governments. In Bohemia, Hungary, and a great part of Germany, for example, the peasantry are literally slaves, and exposed to all the miseries inseparable from such a condition. In Spain, Savoy and Italy, they are little better. In Russia, the peasantry are regarded as appendages of the soil,

soil and undergo the severest treatment, from being subjected to the despotic will of cruel masters. In Poland they are nearly in the same situation as the peasantry of Britain were, previously to the abolition of the feudal system, which yet reigns in force throughout a great part of Europe. Let the dispassionate enquirer compare the condition of the peasantry in Britain with the condition of those now mentioned, and say to which he would give the preference. But there is no necessity for such a comparison, to discover that the former groan under oppression, and are as yet strangers to the real comforts of good government, while the latter enjoy that personal freedom and full security of property which is the soul of industry, the source of wealth, and the spring of those improvements in agriculture, and other arts, by which this country is eminently distinguished.

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SECTION VI.

*Bays, Harbours, Navigable Rivers, Canals,
Turnpike-roads, &c.*

THE bays, harbours, navigable rivers, lakes, springs, canals, turnpike-roads and bridges of Britain, are great advantages in regard to agriculture. These are partly natural, and partly artificial or acquired advantages.

Such as are natural, namely, bays, harbours, navigable rivers, lakes and springs, Britain enjoys in an eminent degree, and that these conduce to improvements in agriculture, daily experience evinces.

Those extensive arms of the sea that for many miles intersect the land, those capacious bays that indent the coast; the many rivers that fall into the ocean in all directions, the commodious harbours, which nature, co-operating with art, has formed; these, instead of detaching one part of the island from another, serve to open an easy communication between parts the most remote, and separated by barriers, seemingly insurmountable; so that the ocean facilitates that intercourse which is essential to the well-being of the whole. Thus, innumerable advantages accrue to the farmer, as well as to the manufacturer,

facturer. The farmer, in many places, by availing himself of water-carriage, has it in his power to bring the produce of his farm to the best market, and to obtain lime, marl, coal, stone, timber, and other necessaries, more expeditiously, and at less expence than he could by land-carriage. From his servants and horses too, being under no necessity of undertaking frequent and long journeys, he has it in his power to give that unremitting attention to the business of agriculture which is so requisite. Similar advantages are derived from those rivers not naturally navigable, but which have been rendered so by the skill and industry of man; also from those canals which join navigable rivers and lakes. Some of these lately executed in Britain, are works no less astonishing, when considered in regard to the arduous nature of the undertaking, than beneficial, when viewed in the light of public utility: Works which constitute an improvement that does honour to modern times, and which marks the liberal spirit of those gentlemen under whose auspices they were executed. By means of these, long and difficult coasting voyages are saved, inland navigations are performed with ease and safety, county is joined to county, river to river, and sea to sea, importation and exportation rendered easy, the operations of husbandry abridged; and

the means of agricultural improvements more widely diffused.

Intimately connected with these natural advantages is, that abundance of pure and wholesome water to be found in almost every part of the island. They who, from their situation, experience a want of this indispensable article, are disposed to value it suitably. Farmers in particular can tell how adverse a scarcity of water is to improvements in agriculture, as well as to their cattle. But few, in proportion to the whole in this country, are they who want this invaluable blessing. No island is, perhaps, on the whole, better supplied with excellent water than Britain. Almost every hill and vale, every wood and grove, every hamlet and farm, have their own springs and rivulets. These, in general, fail not in the drought of summer or cold of winter; and not only afford one of the greatest comforts of life, but their waters, when collected, are made subservient to the useful purposes of mills, engines, and machinery.

Though turnpike-roads and bridges are of much national utility, yet it would be preposterous to dwell on the advantages which are derived from these. The Romans, who knew to improve as well as to conquer, were so sensible that no country could be reduced and civilized without roads and bridges, that the first thing they generally set about, after taking possession
of

of a new territory, was to make it accessible by these means. They, indeed, are absolutely necessary in every country for bringing to perfection agriculture and commerce. By them, land-carriage may be performed, when water-carriage is impracticable. Roads and bridges may be formed over rough and unequal grounds, where it is impossible to make canals. Hence the turnpike-roads, which of late have been formed, or are yet forming in Britain, may be justly ranked among the first of our national improvements. On these the benighted traveller may pass with security, and without the risk of losing his path: While the farmer frequently finds his way to market shortened, and instead of being under the necessity of dragging heavy carriages upon broken and deep roads, obtains a smooth and firm road, with few perceptible pulls, by which he is enabled to perform land-carriage with greater ease to his cattle, and less expence to himself. It is indeed impossible to contrast the present state of the finished turnpikes through the kingdom, with the state of the roads existing previously to their formation, without exultation at the rapid and extensive advantages the public have derived from this great and substantial improvement.

By means of these, journeying is rendered safe and easy, civil intercourse promoted, population encouraged,

encouraged, the value of land enhanced, conveniences, hitherto unknown, obtained, and many spots of ground, formerly barren or uncultivated, now, from being brought into the vicinity of the great turnpike-roads, planted, improved, and adorned with comfortable dwellings for men.

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SECTION VII.

Means of improving the Soil, which may be obtained from the Earth, Sea, Lakes, &c. such as Marl, Lime, Sea-sand, Sea-weeds, and the like.

THE internal means of improving the soil form another natural advantage enjoyed by Great Britain in regard to agriculture. By such means are implied the various kinds of manure that may be obtained from the earth, the sea, rivers, lakes, marshes, &c.

It must necessarily happen, that a soil however rich, will be impoverished by cropping year after year, without restoring to it food in proportion to the nourishment of which it has been deprived, by fostering heavy crops. Experience has proved, that even the soil of America, though formed of the most pure and fresh vegetable mould, is soon exhausted by a succession of severe crops. Hence the use of manure for the best soils, and especially for those which are deficient in natural fertility, or for such as from long cultivation have been exhausted. Such, in general, is the soil of Britain, light, sharp, and active, capable of yielding rich crops, but incapable of being kept in cultivation many years without seasonable rest and nourishment; and even the deep

deep fen, or *carse* soils require to be softened, warmed, and stimulated; while poor and hungry soils, that want strength sufficient to support the lightest crop, when refreshed by manure, amply repay the farmer.

From the above facts respecting the tendency of soil in a state of cultivation to become exhausted, may be discovered the advantages of a country having within itself the means of invigorating, enriching, or correcting the soil. Such natural resources Britain possesses in a degree superior to many countries that boast of a more favourable soil and climate; but which, from the want of these means, are incapable of being equally improved.

These inestimable treasures (as has been already observed) are all obtained from the earth, the sea, rivers, bottoms of marshes, lakes, &c. To enter here into a particular description of their various natures and effects on soil, would be to anticipate what will come more properly under the head of manures. Suffice it to observe at present, that lime and marl, the most important of these, are to be found in plenty in almost every part of Great Britain, and can be procured in most places at a reasonable expence. Unknown in a great measure in former ages, it is only of late that their virtues have been ascertained in Britain. At first, from an intemperate and injudicious use of them, much mischief ensued.

sued. The soil, in some places, instead of being recruited and enriched permanently, was reduced to a *caput mortuum*, or a state of absolute sterility; just as the best medicinal restoratives, if taken in excess, may undermine the constitution of the patient. But this evil soon corrected itself, and the intelligent farmer quickly came to ascertain the power of these manures, and applied them with judgment.

Their effects in meliorating the soil have been no less astonishing, than the change for the better which the proper use of them has produced in the system of agriculture. Many may yet remember the improper modes of cropping, as well as the indifferent crops produced, even in the richest parts of Scotland, previously to the general use of these manures. Some may yet recollect the appearance of the face of the country during the first half of the present century. The greatest admirer of the husbandry of our forefathers, must give a decided preference to that of their children; and this preference is to be ascribed chiefly to the proper use of marl and lime. By these, the stubborn soil is made to relent, the cold clay is warmed and stimulated, the tough moor improved and meliorated, and grass and corn, and well cultivated fields, and pleasant lawns, and thriving plantations, and populous villages, are found, where, formerly, unprofitable

unprofitable furze, copse wood, heath, and stagnated water prevailed.

In a word, in virtue of these internal resources, agricultural improvements have been introduced, while vegetation spreads on every side, and, with wonderful progress, ascends our hills.

Not less advantageous as manures, although not in such general use, are sea-sand and seaweeds. These are furnished in abundance by the sea; and now, that a spirit for improvements in agriculture has become general in the island, the application of such manures to coast lands has been found highly beneficial.

The same may be said of irrigation, or the practice of laying lands under water at particular seasons, as a means of improving the soil. This contributes to an increase of vegetable mould and nutritive matter, and consequently tends to fertilize the soil. Great Britain enjoys this advantage in a degree superior to most countries, from the number, variety, and situation of its hills; from the many waters that descend from those to the vales below; from the gradually inclining surface of the fields till they stretch into plains; and from the little trouble by which rivulets and springs are turned from one field into another. These are circumstances which escape not the notice of the attentive farmer, and of which he avails himself.

SECTION VIII.

Woodlands, Plantations, &c. producing, besides Shelter, Timber for constructing Farm-houses, Implements of Husbandry, &c.

It is probable, from the many natural forests and extensive woodlands yet remaining, as well as from the great number of trees found in the bottom of mores, lakes and rivers, that this, like almost every other country, was once covered with wood. And from the remains of the trees of former times, no less than from the specimens of modern timber, with the great variety of foreign trees and shrubs that have of late been introduced into Britain, and which thrive so well, it appears that our soil and climate are well suited to produce trees, either of a delicate or hardy nature.

The benefit to be derived, in an agricultural point of view, from abundance of timber, requires no tedious illustration. Without a sufficient supply of this necessary article, the farmer cannot avail himself of the natural advantages of soil and climate. By timber, he is furnished with the means of making the implements of husbandry; of inclosing or railing in his fields; of protecting his hedges and young wood, or of erecting houses and sheds, with the numberless

other requisites for a farm-yard. To the poor cottager the advantage of brushwood in his neighbourhood is well known. He is thereby supplied with fuel at a reasonable rate, when he cannot afford to bring it from a distance; and by the same means he is enabled to secure his little garden or field, without much expence or trouble.

In another view, growing timber is highly favourable to agriculture. The large plantations which now cover what was formerly bleak moor or naked hill, tend much to warm the air, and diffuse vegetable life around; while the strips of trees and hedges, which surround and divide many farms, shelter from inclement winds, and impart a genial warmth to the adjacent fields. To be satisfied of the truth of this, one has only to compare the lawns and pleasure-grounds of great proprietors, which are encompassed by thick plantations, with those fields which, though superior as to soil, yet want such shelter. In the former an almost perpetual verdure appears, while the latter are exposed to all the ravages of winter.

Such natural advantages from wood, Britain has for ages enjoyed, and still continues to enjoy; although it may be allowed, that at no former period had the farmer greater reasons to apprehend a scarcity of this indispensable article. This may be partly owing to the decrease
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of ancient forests and woodlands, from shameful neglect, partly to the little spirit for planting that appeared in the last century, and partly to the increasing demand for timber of every kind, arising from the extension of commerce and ship and house building, no less than from the improvements of manufactures, agriculture, and other arts.

Proprietors of the present day, with a view to prevent the failure of this natural advantage, begin to pay particular attention to the yet growing timber and thriving plantations, besides annually adding to the stock, by planting waste and rugged grounds; the trees on many of which places, from their wonderful progress, tend no less to beautify the country than to meliorate the soil. Already has the husbandman profited from these; and it is to be hoped, from the unremitting exertions of the same laudable spirit in those who have it in their power to plant, that the loud complaints heard from all quarters respecting the neglect and scarcity of timber will be in time removed.

S E C.

SECTION IX.

Relative Situation of Great Britain in regard to other Countries.

HOWEVER happy a country may be in point of internal advantages, if cut off from all intercourse with adjacent countries, it cannot rise to that eminence in useful arts which otherwise it might attain. For kingdoms (like men) have wants that cannot be supplied without a communication with others; and providence, it would seem, to promote a kind intercourse among the nations, has so ordered, that what is wanting in one may be obtained from another. Even those regions of the earth to which nature has been sparing of her bounties, may become objects of regard to improved and rich states, on account of some production which cannot be obtained elsewhere. Thus the several continents, kingdoms and islands of the globe, though separated by seas, rivers and mountains, are, in some degree, mutually dependent on one another, and find it their interest to maintain a reciprocal connection. The connection, however, of any country with another, depends much on its local situation. Countries, in the heart of a great continent, without inland seas, lakes, rivers and canals, can have little intercourse with countries

of

of the same continent, far distant, and separated by extensive territories or lofty mountains. Even kingdoms, washed on one or two sides by the sea, cannot have that full and free intercourse with other kingdoms, that insular lands may enjoy.

Of all islands, Great Britain is most fortunately situated in respect of other countries. Though separated by the ocean from the continent of Europe, yet, in virtue of this separation, it has access to the whole. Of a triangular form, it is contiguous to France on the south, and Ireland on the west. Its eastern coast is opposite to the Netherlands, Holland, and the Hanse Towns of Germany; and it is extremely favourable to a commercial intercourse with all the countries bordering on the Baltic Sea. Indeed, from all countries in the world it can import, and to all export, with more ease and advantage than any other kingdom of Europe. Should the crop fail in Britain, there can be little reason to apprehend a famine, when, in the ports all round the island, vessels lie in readiness to import from countries where abundance prevails; should the grain be damaged and unfit for seed, the farmer has it in his power to obtain supplies from lands where the season has proved more favourable. In seasons of plenty, and when the prices for home consumption are low, he finds, from the ports being opened, a ready and good market for what might have otherwise remained on hand.

hand. In regard also to many other articles, the British husbandman has a manifest advantage over continental farmers, who, in many kingdoms, are so circumstanced as to have little or no benefit from water-carriage, and consequently cannot obtain from foreign countries what they want, without considerable toil and expence.

S E C.

SECTION X.

The Flourishing Manufactures and Commerce of Great Britain.

MANUFACTURES and commerce go hand in hand, and constitute a grand source of national wealth. From what has been stated, it appears, that Great Britain, in virtue of certain natural and acquired advantages, is admirably adapted for commerce and manufactures; and it must be admitted, that in no nation have these (of late) been carried on with greater spirit, and to greater extent. While the genius of manufacture pervades the island, the genius of British commerce pervades the globe. While thousands in town and country are employed in providing, dressing and working the raw materials of our own or foreign lands, thousands are employed in conveying the manufactured goods to the best markets. On all seas, and rivers, and in every part of the known world, our trading vessels may be found, and there is not a people on the earth whom the commodities of our island have not reached. To the joint influence of the astonishing manufactures and commerce of Great Britain, must be partly ascribed the rapid improvements lately made in agriculture. It is true, many, taken from the plough, have
been

been employed in the departments of commerce and manufactures, and the wages of labouring servants thereby raised; yet whoever complains of this, complains unreasonably; such a partial evil being more than counterbalanced by the concomitant advantages which the community derives from the same source. From the many thousands of every age and sex thus employed, the price of labour is raised, money circulated in greater plenty, encouragement given to the industrious poor, a taste for good living introduced, and, of consequence, a greater demand for those articles that depend on agriculture. Hence flour, oat-meal, barley, oats, beef, mutton, pork, poultry, eggs, milk, cheese, with every other production of a farm, rise in proportion.

But this is not all; from the large manufacturing houses erected in towns, and their near neighbourhood, as well as in various parts of the country, additional quantities of manure are obtained, an influx of inhabitants occasioned; villages built, markets established, artisans of various kinds brought together; land given in small portions to workmen, who improve it for their profit and convenience; while, not unfrequently, the manufacturer, the merchant, and the foreign adventurer, who, in their several spheres, have realized fortunes, purchase property in land, retire to their estates in the country, and expend, in agricultural improvements,

part of the gains they have accumulated from commerce and manufactures.

From the preceding account of the natural and acquired advantages which Great Britain enjoys in regard to agriculture, it may appear surprising, that, with all these advantages, improvements in that art have not been carried to a greater extent in this island. But it will be found in the sequel, that the advantages, great as they are, have hitherto been in some degree counteracted by obstacles, some of which are of so serious a nature, that the intervention of the Legislature alone can remove them.

RESOLUTIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN

It is the duty of every citizen to be acquainted with the principles of the constitution, and to be able to defend it against all attacks. The first principle is that of liberty, which is the right of every man to do as he pleases, without being hindered by others. The second principle is that of property, which is the right of every man to the fruits of his industry. The third principle is that of justice, which is the right of every man to be treated equally by the law. The fourth principle is that of peace, which is the right of every man to live in safety. The fifth principle is that of order, which is the right of every man to be governed by the laws of his country. The sixth principle is that of religion, which is the right of every man to worship God in his own way. The seventh principle is that of education, which is the right of every man to acquire knowledge. The eighth principle is that of health, which is the right of every man to live in a sound body. The ninth principle is that of happiness, which is the right of every man to enjoy the fruits of his life. The tenth principle is that of glory, which is the right of every man to be remembered by his country. These are the principles of the constitution, and they are the foundation of all our rights and liberties. We must therefore be vigilant to preserve them, and to defend them against all attacks. We must be ready to sacrifice our lives and our property for the sake of these principles, and to stand firm against all enemies of the constitution. We must be true to our principles, and we must be true to our country. We must be brave and bold, and we must be just and fair. We must be wise and prudent, and we must be diligent and industrious. We must be honest and sincere, and we must be loyal and faithful. We must be patriotic and devoted, and we must be brave and bold. We must be true to our principles, and we must be true to our country. We must be brave and bold, and we must be just and fair. We must be wise and prudent, and we must be diligent and industrious. We must be honest and sincere, and we must be loyal and faithful. We must be patriotic and devoted, and we must be brave and bold.

C H A P. II.

*Geographical and Agricultural Description of each
County in Great Britain.*

AS in the preceding chapter the advantages which Britain at large enjoys in regard to agriculture, were stated, it is proposed in this to give a delineation of each county in the united kingdom, which will include an account of the situation and extent, surface, soil, mode of occupation, forests, woodlands, towns, manufactures, commerce, live stock, and agricultural exports of the respective districts.

This, it is hoped, may prove acceptable, as it has an obvious connection with the various branches of rural œconomy, which will be treated of in the course of the work. The attempt is new, and can only be regarded as an imperfect sketch of a plan, which, if executed upon a proper scale, and embracing a greater variety of objects, could not fail to convey to the mind of every reader a more correct idea of the agricultural and commercial intercourse which subsists
between

between one county and another, and between every county in the island (however remote) and the metropolis, than has ever been laid before the public.

Information is still wanted as to some material facts regarding a few of the more southern counties in England, which the correspondence now established will, it is hoped, in a short time be the means of procuring.

It has been judged proper (rather than retard the work) to begin with a description of Scotland; the mode of arrangement in this case being deemed a matter of no great importance.

SCOTLAND.

SCOTLAND is bounded on the east, west and north by the sea, and on the south by the English counties of Cumberland and Northumberland. Its greatest extent from south to north is about 270 miles, and its greatest breadth about 150 miles. The form of Scotland is very irregular, being indented in many places by extensive bays and arms of the sea, in so much that the most inland part of the country is not 50 miles distant from the shore.

This kingdom, which comprehends the northern part of Great Britain, is neither so extensive, populous, nor rich in agricultural productions, as England. In many places, however, the fertility of the soil, the modes of cultivation, and the value of the crops, are not inferior to those in the southern parts of the island.

In describing the surface and general appearance of Scotland, it may be proper to divide it into two parts. The boundary between the south and north of Scotland is, indeed, strongly marked by the hand of nature. It consists of that immense chain of high mountains, called the Grampian hills, which runs across the kingdom from Aberdeen, on the east, to Cowal in Argyleshire, on the west.

That part of Scotland lying north of these hills, is, for the most part, extremely mountainous, bleak, barren and unproductive; and the utmost efforts of human industry would be insufficient to improve it in general.

In the internal part, however, of this division, and on the western coast, there are many extensive vallies that afford excellent pasturage, and are interspersed with corn-fields; and on the northern and eastern shores, there are several tracts of arable land of very considerable extent, which, when properly cultivated, produce good crops.

The southern division contains, it is true, many lofty mountains, craggy rocks, barren moors,
and

and uncultivated lands ; but it also contains many extensive plains, gently rising hills and bending vales, fertile in corn, and covered with innumerable herds of cattle and flocks of sheep, and would bear a very striking resemblance to England, were it as abundantly stocked with timber, and the farms as well ornamented with hedge-row trees.

It should, however, be observed, that CAMPBELL, in his Political Survey, states, on the authority of Mr TEMPLEMAN, as formerly mentioned, that Scotland contains 17,788,000 acres, and by an account lately published in the newspapers of the day,* (no doubt under the authority of the Honourable Board of Agriculture) it appears, that no less than 14,218,224 acres are waste lands, so that only 3,569,776, or about one-fifth part of the whole kingdom, is in a state of cultivation.

The principal rivers of Scotland by which inland navigation is promoted, without the intervention of art, are the Forth, the Clyde, the Tay, and the Nith ; but there are many other rivers which, besides various other advantages derived from them, are very valuable on account of the vast number of salmon with which they abound.

The population of Scotland has been variously stated by different writers ; but in consequence
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* See Edinburgh Evening Courant of 12th March 1795.

of the exertions of two gentlemen* well known and much respected for their public spirit, that matter will be soon ascertained with a degree of accuracy unknown in modern times. At present it may be remarked, that the population in 1755 (as appears by a manuscript report in the handwriting of Dr Webster) amounted to 1,265,380, and by various calculations made on the data afforded by the Statistical Accounts, already published, it is pretty certain, that the present total population cannot be under 1,600,000, so that there has been an increase, within these last 40 years, of upwards of 334,000, which must appear astonishing, if we consider the great number of persons of every age and sex, who, some years ago, emigrated from the north and west of Scotland.

Scotland is divided into 33 counties; these, however, send only 30 members to Parliament, the counties of Clackmannan, Nairn and Caithness being conjoined with those of Kinross, Carmarthen and Bute†.

In describing the counties of Scotland, that which appeared the most simple mode of arrangement has been adopted, namely, to begin at

* The Reverend Dr WEBSTER, late one of the ministers of Edinburgh, and Sir JOHN SINCLAIR, Baronet.

† The Cities and Boroughs chuse 15, so that Scotland is represented in the House of Commons by 45 Members.

at Berwickshire, and give an account of all the maritime counties as they lie in order; and afterwards to take notice of those that may be denominated inland, and which, owing to many bays and friths on all the coasts of the kingdom, are very few, when compared with the number in England.

The order in which the different counties are arranged in this work, is as under, *viz.*

MARITIME COUNTIES.

- 1 Berwick.
- 2 Haddington.
- 3 Edinburgh.
- 4 Linlithgow.
- 5 Stirling.
- 6 Clackmannan.
- { 7 Fife and
- 8 Kinross.
- 9 Perth.
- 10 Angus or Forfar.
- 11 Mearns.
- 12 Aberdeen.
- 13 Banff.
- 14 Elgin or Moray.
- 15 Nairn.
- { 16 Ross and
- 17 Cromarty.
- 18 Sutherland.
- 19 Caithness.

20 Orkney

- 20 Orkney and Zetland.
- 21 Inverness and the Hebrides.
- 22 Argyle.
- 23 Dumbarton.
- 24 Renfrew.
- 25 Isle of Bute.
- 26 Ayr.
- 27 Wigton.
- 28 Kirkcudbright.
- 29 Dumfries.

INLAND COUNTIES.

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| 30 Roxburgh. | 32 Lanark. |
| 31 Peebles. | 33 Selkirk. |

BERWICK.

Situation and Extent.—The county of Berwick or the Merse, as it is frequently called, is bounded on the east by the German ocean, and by Berwick-Bounds*, on the south by the river Tweed, which separates it from England, on the west

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* The south east part of this district is called Berwick-Bounds; it comprehends Berwick, and a circuit of from seven to eight miles, on the north and west of the town, and is politically distinct both from England and Scotland.

by the counties of Roxburgh and Edinburgh, and on the north by that of Haddington. It extends from north to south about 17 miles, and from east to west upwards of 32.

Surface, Soil and mode of Occupation.—The surface is very irregular, especially towards the north and west, where there are many hills, the most considerable of which are those of Lammermuir. A great proportion of this division is incapable of cultivation, but is valuable for pasturage, in consequence of its vicinity to the markets of England and Edinburgh. Where cultivation has taken place, turnip crops have been generally introduced, and are considered as a very capital improvement in the husbandry of that part of the county.

The south division (properly called the Merse) lying along the north banks of the Tweed, is an extensive tract of rich arable land, consisting either of gravel, loam, or strong clay soils, which, from having been long under an improved state of culture, produce valuable crops of all kinds of grain. Wheat, barley, oats and beans, are here cultivated in nearly equal proportions, and large quantities are annually exported to London, and different sea-ports along the east coast, or sent over land to Edinburgh.

Forests and Woodlands.—There are no forests, and but little old timber in the district. A spirit for planting has, however, for some time prevailed,

vailed, and several thousand acres of thriving plantations bid fair, in a short time, to supply the want of this necessary article.

Towns, Manufactures and Commerce.—The principal towns are Lauder and Dunse. Berwick and Eyemouth are sea-ports, from whence grain of all kinds are annually exported to a great extent. The commerce and manufactures are inconsiderable.

Live Stock, Horses.—The horses in the Merse are of a large size and well made. There is no county on the south-east coast of Scotland where the number of horses bred in the district are sufficient to answer the ordinary demand. For which reason, the farmers are obliged to have recourse to the markets in the western parts of the kingdom, in order to keep up their stock. The average price of horses, such as are now generally used in two horse ploughs, all along the coast from Berwick to Aberdeen, may be rated at from L. 45 to L. 60 a pair*.

Black Cattle.—The cattle bred in the Merse are of a large size; an ox four years old, when fat, weighing from 60 to 70 stone Amsterdam. Cows of this breed give from 16 to 28 English quarts of milk *per* day. In the higher parts of the

* This general observation is made here, in order to avoid repetitions in the description of the size and value of horses, in those counties where there is little or no difference in these respects.

the county the cattle are much smaller, weighing only from 20 to 24 stone Amsterdam. The lean cattle are purchased by dealers who send them to England; and such as are fatted in the county are either disposed of there, or sent to the markets of Morpeth or Edinburgh.

Sheep.—The most valuable breeds of England have been introduced for many years in the more fertile parts of this district, and several proprietors and intelligent farmers have directed their attention to the improvement of the different breeds, and an emulation has taken place which cannot fail of being productive of beneficial consequences.

HADDINGTON or EAST LoTHIAN.

Situation and Extent.—The county of Haddington is bounded on the south by Berwickshire, on the east by the German ocean, on the north by the Frith of Forth, and on the west by the county of Edinburgh. Its utmost extent from east to west is about 25 miles, and where broadest nearly 15 miles from north to south.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—That part of the county which is situated along the coast of the German ocean, and on the south shore of the Frith of Forth, being for the most part either champaign or agreeably diversified with hill and dale, is both fertile and beautiful.

The

The soil consists of strong clay or loam of different qualities; and while abundant crops are produced from the surface, immense quantities of coal are dug from inexhaustible mines below.

Further back from the coasts the country rises into hills of considerable height, and at last terminates in the mountains of Lammermuir, which, as has been observed, are principally employed in pasturage.

Forests and Woodlands.—In the more fertile parts of the county, where the soil is of a rich quality, there is very little wood, but towards the middle, and in the more remote districts, there are several extensive plantations of thriving trees. It would, however, certainly tend to the ornament of the country, as well as to the interest of the proprietors, were they to add greatly to the number.

Towns, Manufactures and Commerce.—Haddington is the county town, where a very great weekly market is regularly held for the sale of grain. Dunbar and North Berwick are the principal sea-ports, at which great quantities of grain are annually shipped. There are also many villages; but the commerce and manufactures of the district are not so considerable as to have any material influence on its agriculture.

Live Stock, Horses, &c. see page 83.

Black Cattle.—In that part of Lammermuir situated in this county, the cattle are of a small size,

size, the ancient breed being still continued, and they sell at from L. 3 to L. 5. But in the low country, where grass and turnip husbandry prevail, the breed of cattle is much improved both in size and value.

Sheep.—The system of sheep husbandry, though long exploded in the low part of this county, as well as in all the best cultivated districts in Scotland*, is now again reviving. Attention is paid not only to the introduction of better breeds, but also to the proper management of them (by providing abundance of green food at all seasons) and there is every reason to expect, that the local situation of the county in regard to the best market in the kingdom (Edinburgh) will ensure success, and be the means of inducing the farmers to unite this profitable branch of husbandry with that of the proper cultivation of the soil.

EDIN-

• The spirit of inclosing and planting which prevailed among the proprietors in Scotland 30 or 40 years ago, was the means of banishing sheep from the arable part of the country. Were it necessary to describe the manner in which these valuable animals were treated, even in the most fertile parts of Scotland, previous to that period, it might be done in very nearly the same words which Mr Young uses in describing the French system of sheep husbandry, so late as 1789. They were crambed into a small, foul, overheated house during night, throughout the year, and were starved in winter, or forced to eat dirty straw, and pick a scanty subsistence from some furze or broom. See his *Travels in France*, page 425.

EDINBURGH.

Situation and Extent.—The county of Edinburgh or Mid Lothian, is bounded on the east by Haddington and Berwick, on the south by Selkirk and Peebles, on the west by Lanark and Linlithgow, and on the north by the Frith of Forth. Its length between the extreme points is about 35 miles; its greatest breadth from east to west does not exceed 16.

Surface, Soil, and Modes of Occupation.—The general appearance of this county is by no means favourable, except in the vicinity of the city of Edinburgh, where are to be seen an agreeable variety of hill and dale, well cultivated fields, rich pasturage, numerous villages, and thriving trees, which all combine in forming prospects of rural scenery, equal in beauty to what are to be met with in the most fertile parts of Britain.

The remainder, particularly towards the borders of the counties of Lanark, Peebles, and Selkirk, is either barren, or comparatively unproductive, containing many mountains, of which the Morefoot and Pentland hills are the most considerable. These are for the most part pastured with sheep; but in the vallies between the hills the lands have been long in a state of cultivation.

This

This county abounds with coal, lime and freestone, the working of which affords employment for a great number of people.

The soil in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh is either clay or loam of various qualities, which in general produces excellent crops of all kinds of grain. In the more elevated parts of the district, the soil is light and moorish, better adapted for pasture than tillage, though oats, barley, turnips and potatoes are cultivated in considerable quantities in the vallies, and on the sides of the hills.

Forests and Woodlands.—In the best cultivated tracts, and especially within a few miles of the metropolis, this county has the appearance of being abundantly stocked with trees; but being either planted in hedge-rows, or in small clumps around the villages and country houses of the proprietors, though they tend to diversify the prospect, yet do not afford a great supply of timber. In the interior part of the country there are some extensive plantations, and on the banks of the rivers and streams, some remains of natural wood are here and there to be seen.

Towns, Manufactures and Commerce.—The city of Edinburgh, although the capital of Scotland, is a place of little or no foreign trade, but owing to its populousness, is an excellent market for every production of a farm. In Leith (which is the principal sea-port) foreign commerce is carried on

to a considerable extent, especially to the Baltic, Holland, Germany, Portugal, Spain, and America. There are also several manufactories established, of which glass, cotton and cordage, employ the greatest number of hands.

Live Stock, Horses, &c. see page 83.

Black Cattle.—This county is not remarkable for its breed of cattle; the quantity of milk being more an object of the farmer's attention, than either the size or shape of the animal. The ordinary sort of cows gives from 18 to 26 English quarts of milk in the day. They weigh when fat from 30 to 40 stone Amsterdam, and sell at from L. 6 to L. 10 each.

Sheep.—There are several distinct breeds of sheep in different parts of this district. On the higher and more exposed sheep-walks, the Tweeddale or black-faced kind is most common. On those which are more sheltered, the Cheviot breed is found to be the most profitable; while, on some arable farms in the lower part of the county, attempts have been made to connect sheep-farming with agriculture, in the same manner as is now established in the greatest part of England; and which, if persevered in, by the introduction of the more valuable breeds from that kingdom, cannot fail to be attended with the most beneficial consequences, both to the public and to individuals.



LINLITHGOW.

Situation and Extent.—Linlithgow, or West Lothian, is bounded on the east by the county of Edinburgh, on the north by the frith of Forth, on the west by Stirling, and on the south-west by Lanark. Its form is irregular: Its greatest length from north to south is about 20 miles, and its extreme breadth from east to west nearly 14.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—This county, particularly along the shore of the Frith, is a rich fertile level tract, and, having many small hills, ornamented with trees, exhibits a prospect scarcely to be paralleled for elegance and variety; towards the south it becomes more mountainous, and less fertile.

The soil is very various, consisting of light gravel, black deep loam, and clay, but the greatest proportion is clay, which, in the low part of the county particularly, is extremely productive, and yields all kinds of grain and other crops commonly cultivated in the kingdom.

In the interior part of the district the arable lands are also capable of producing good crops. The hills and waste lands are chiefly occupied as pastures for sheep and young cattle.

Forests and Woodlands.—There are no remains of ancient forests; but, owing to the same cause
which

which is mentioned in the description of Mid Lothian, namely, the vicinity of the metropolis, and the great number of gentlemens seats which are situated in this district, it has more the appearance of a well wooded county than most others in Scotland.

Several of the plantations having arrived at a considerable age and size, are now more than sufficient for a supply of timber for every purpose connected with the agriculture of the county.

Towns, Manufactures and Commerce.—Neither manufactures nor commerce are carried on to any extent. The chief articles of export are coals and salt from Borrowstounness. Linlithgow is the county town: it is a place of little or no trade, famous only for its weekly corn-market, at which considerable quantities of grain are sold; and for an act of Parliament passed in 1618, establishing the measures then used there to be the general standard measures of grain all over Scotland.

Live Stock, Horses.—The horses here are much the same in point of size and value, as those bred in the adjoining county of Lanark, which supplies the farmers on the south-east coast with draught horses. From some parishes in this district several young horses are annually sold to farmers in the neighbouring districts, but principally to dealers in Edinburgh.

Black

Black Cattle.—The grazing and fattening of cattle for the butcher, in the neighbourhood of so good a market as Edinburgh, must always be more profitable to the farmer, especially on high rented and good land, than the rearing of stock. The breed of cows in the low part of the county is rather of the large size, weighing, when fat, from 24 to 36 stone Amsterdam, and giving from 16 to 26 English quarts of milk in the day.

Sheep.—There are few of this species of stock bred in the district, and this for the reason mentioned above, *viz.* that the farmers find it more for their interest to purchase sheep from other counties, in order to fatten them for the Edinburgh market.

STIRLING.

Situation and Extent.—Stirlingshire is bounded on the east by Linlithgow and the frith of Forth, on the south and west by Dumbarton, and on the north by Perth. Its form is irregular, being broadest towards the middle. Its length is about thirty miles, and its greatest breadth upwards of sixteen.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The surface of this county is greatly diversified with hills

hills and plains; but in general it has rather a mountainous appearance, excepting towards the east, where there are many extensive plains of as rich soil as any in Scotland, especially adjoining to the banks of the Forth and the Carron.

A great range of hills called the Campsie fells, occupies the centre of the county, and towards the north-west the great mountain of Benlomond rears its lofty head. Many of the hills are clothed in verdure, and afford rich pasturage for numbers of sheep and small cattle.

The soil in the eastern division, containing the carses of Stirling and Falkirk, is a strong deep clay* of an excellent quality, producing when properly cultivated very valuable crops. The remaining arable lands are either a poor wet till, or a light sharp active soil, which last is well adapted for grass and turnip husbandry. In the carses of Stirling and Falkirk, wheat is cultivated nearly in the same proportion with any other kind of crop. But in the other parts of the district, barley, oats and pease, are the chief produce.

Forests

* It is supposed, "that in ancient times this whole tract was covered by the waters of the neighbouring frith, which, by some unknown revolution, has contracted its channel." See Nimmo's History of Stirlingshire, page 429. In corroboration of this remark it may be observed, that ships anchors have been dug out of the ground at Redbrae near the bridge of Larbert, which is a considerable distance from the frith of Forth.

Forests and Woodlands.—There are remains of ancient forests in various parts of Stirlingshire ; but those adjoining to Lochlomond, and the Torwood, between Stirling and Falkirk, are the most considerable.

Several of the proprietors have also been at pains to improve their estates, and ornament the country by numerous plantations, many of which are in a thriving state.

Towns, Manufactures and Commerce.—The town of Stirling, which is the capital of the county, has long enjoyed some manufactures. At present those of shalloons, tartans, cottons and carpets, are the most considerable. Falkirk is a place of little trade ; it is however remarkable for the cattle-fairs held annually in its neighbourhood, at which greater numbers of black cattle are exposed to sale than in any other fairs in Great Britain, thirty or forty thousand, mostly from the north of Scotland, being sometimes sold in one of these. They are generally purchased for the purpose of being sent into England.

On the banks of the river Carron near Falkirk, the famous iron-works are erected. This is probably the greatest foundry in Europe. Upwards of one thousand workmen are employed. One hundred and thirty tons of coals are said to be used every day at this foundry. All sorts of iron goods are manufactured, from the
smallest

smallest article to canons of the greatest dimensions.

There are also several other populous villages in this county, in all which some species of manufactures are carried on to a certain extent. Besides the various articles manufactured in the county, several thousand quarters of grain are annually exported, chiefly to the Glasgow and Edinburgh markets.

Live Stock, Horses, &c. see page 83.

Black Cattle.—Although there are great numbers of black cattle annually grazed, with which the markets of Glasgow and Edinburgh are partly supplied, yet there are comparatively few of this species of stock reared in the district, the grazing being reckoned the most profitable system of husbandry. Small highland cattle are purchased in lean, at from L. 2, 10 s. to L. 5, and sold about a year afterwards at from L. 5 to L. 8 each. The cows reared in the low parts of the county are very similar in size and value to those in the neighbouring county of Linlithgow.

Sheep.—Little attention has hitherto been paid to the introduction of the more valuable breeds of sheep. The Tweeddale or black-faced kind most generally prevails.

CLACK-

CLACKMANNAN.

Situation and Extent.—Clackmannan is bounded on the west by Stirling, on the north by Perth, on the east by Fife, and on the south by the frith of Forth. Except perhaps Kinross, it is the smallest county in Scotland, being only ten miles in length and about eight in breadth. The borough of Culross, the village of Kincardine, and a tract of country around them, belong properly to Perthshire.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The surface along the banks of the Forth is level; further back towards the centre of the county it is more diversified. The northern division is mountainous, including part of that range of hills known by the name of the Ochils, which are esteemed the best sheep-walks in Scotland north of the frith of Forth.

The soil along the shore is a rich clay, similar to that of the carses of Stirling and Falkirk; and towards the bottoms of the hills it becomes gradually lighter, and inferior in quality: though as the climate is very favourable, this county may be reckoned upon the whole productive. Considerable quantities of grain are either annually exported, or consumed in some

large distilleries which have been erected in the district.

Forests and Woodlands.—There are some young plantations of considerable extent in various parts of the country, which added to clumps and stripes of planting interspersed through many of the farms, and the hedge row-trees with which the public roads are in many places ornamented, must in a few years produce a stock of timber more than sufficient for the consumpt of the country.

Towns, Manufactures and Commerce.—Clackmannan is a town of little trade or consideration. Alloa, Kincardine and Culrofs, from being situated on the banks of the Forth, possess some commerce. The exportation of coals and gla's, particularly the former, is very considerable, and at Kincardine several small sloops and vessels are annually built.

Live Stock, Horses, &c. see page 83.

Black Cattle.—Little attention has hitherto been paid to improvements in the breed of black cattle, except by the introduction of cows from the adjoining county of Fife, which has no doubt had considerable effect in improving the size and shape of this species of stock in the district now under review.

Sheep.—The Ochil-hills being covered with verdure, and within reach of the principal markets in Scotland, have been, as before observed,

long esteemed very valuable as sheep-walks. But although it is certain, that the Cheviot breed would thrive here as well as in any part of the kingdom, yet hitherto the Tweeddale sort only have been introduced. Some experiments were indeed lately tried, by crossing the black faced breed with tups from Cheviot, which have been attended with success in regard to improving the quality of the wool.

FIFE AND KINROSS.

Situation and Extent.—The county of Fife is bounded on three sides by water, having the frith of Tay on the north, the German Ocean on the east, and the frith of Forth on the south; it is joined on the west by the counties of Kinross and Perth. Its greatest breadth is sixteen miles; and its extreme length, from east to west, upwards of fifty.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—There is no district in Scotland where the arable lands bear so great a proportion to the whole extent as here; for, although there are several ranges of hills, yet these, when compared with the extensive vales, numerous plains, and various gentle slopes, occupy but a small part, perhaps not much above one fourth of the surface.

The south coast of Fife has been long in a high state of cultivation; and there are few places in Britain,

Britain, where, within these 12 or 15 years, improvements in agriculture have been carried on with greater ardour; or where success has more eminently attended the exertions of the inhabitants, than in the middle and towards the north part of this county.

The soil is either sand, gravel, or loam, all of which are in general productive, and extremely well adapted for grass husbandry. The crops most generally cultivated are, barley, oats, pease and turnips, though in different parts of the county wheat is partially cultivated. The grain, beyond what is necessary for the consumpt of the numerous inhabitants, is for the most part exported to Glasgow and Leith.

The most extensive hills are those called the Lomonds, which are covered with verdure, and esteemed excellent sheep-walks.

Forests and Woodlands.—There is very little valuable timber, but a great many thriving plantations, which, it is hoped, will in a few years afford a supply, at least equal to the annual demand for that article in the district.

There are still many barren and neglected spots towards the summits of the hills, which could be improved with more effect, and at less expence, by planting than by any other means.

Towns, Manufactures and Commerce.—Cupar is the county-town, at which a weekly market is held for the sale of grain in the proper season.

Besides

Besides which, there are several other Royal boroughs, and a great number of villages.

This county, particularly towards the south, abounds in iron-stone, lime-stone, and coal. Great quantities of these articles are annually exported, which trade added to the operations of husbandry, and the various manufactures of cottons, linens, checks, &c. carried on in the different towns and villages, affords full employment for the inhabitants, who are more numerous here than in any other part of Scotland of the same extent, where no great cities or large manufacturing towns are situated *.

Live Stock, Horses.—See page 102.

Black

* In the frith of Forth, along the south coast of Fife, there has been a very extensive herring fishing carried on for these two or three years. At the port of Burntisland alone, there were taken and cured, from the 10th November 1794 to the 21st March 1795, no less than 56,865 barrels. The British salt used amounted to 63,767½ bushels, and the sales on an average may be reckoned at L. 1, 1s. *per* barrel; besides which, it was supposed, that a quantity equal to 10,000 barrels were disposed of for the use of the inhabitants in the inland part of the country.

Should Government ever adopt the resolution of establishing, what has been long talked of as necessary, namely, a naval arsenal and dock-yard in Scotland, there is perhaps no port on the east coast so favourably situated in every respect for this purpose as that of Burntisland.

Black Cattle.—The breed of cattle in this county are of an excellent kind, and are in great request in England, where many thousands are annually disposed of. They generally sell at from L. 6 to L. 8, when three or four years old, for the purpose of being sent into that kingdom.

Sheep.—Improvements in the breeds of sheep, have not become an object of attention with the farmers in this district till very lately. The new Leicester and Cheviot breeds are, however, now introduced, and no doubt will succeed in many situations. Major Simpson's stock of cattle and sheep at Pitcorthie are particularly valuable.

KINROSS, though an inland county, being of very small extent, may be noticed in this place without impropriety.

Situation and Extent.—Kinross is bounded on the north-west by Perthshire, and on the south and east by Fife. It is of a circular form; its greatest extent in any direction is about ten miles.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The surface is very irregular, and exhibits a variety of objects considerably different from each other. In the vale of Kinross, many fertile fields, but few inclosures, some barren moors and mosses, several thriving villages, and an extensive lake, meet the eye. This county is skirted all round,
2 except

except on the east, with high hills. These, however, being for the most part covered with grass, are esteemed excellent pasture for sheep, to which use they are principally applied.

The soil is in some places deep and fertile loam; in others light black earth, but that which most generally prevails is gravel, not unfrequently however on a wet bottom, and which, from the moistness of the climate, owing to the contiguity of the hills, is found better adapted to the growth of grass than grain. The ordinary crops of oats, barley, turnips and potatoes are cultivated in this district; but wheat hitherto only in small quantities.

Forests and Woodlands.—There are no old trees, but those around the houses of the proprietors. Several considerable plantations, in a very thriving state, serve to adorn the country, and bid fair to become in a few years highly serviceable to the inhabitants, as well as advantageous to the owners.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—The central village Kinross is the only town of any consideration. Being distant from the sea, it is a place of no trade. The only manufacture carried on to any extent, is that of coarse linens, chiefly what are called Silesia. There are several annual fairs held here for the sale of black cattle and horses, at which great numbers, particularly of the former, are disposed of to south country dealers.

Live

Live Stock, Horses.—There are some good horses bred in this district ; but the general run are such as sell when in their prime at L. 9 and L. 10, and sometimes L. 12.

Black Cattle.—The breed of black cattle are of a good size, and well shaped. Young oxen of the best sort, when three or four year old, bring from L. 5 to L. 8. Those of inferior size from L. 4 to L. 6. Milch-cows from L. 5 to L. 7.

Sheep.—Notwithstanding the quality of the pasture, and the advantageous situation of the county, in regard to Edinburgh, and other markets, little or no attention has hitherto been paid to improve the breed of sheep. The Tweeddale, and the small white-faced ancient race, are the only kinds which occupy the hills in this district. Though there cannot be a doubt, that with ordinary attention, more valuable breeds might be introduced with great success.

P E R T H.

Situation and Extent.—This extensive county is bounded on the south by parts of Fife, Kinross, Clackmannan and Stirling ; on the west by Argyle ; on the north by Inverness and Aberdeen ;

deen; and on the east by the frith of Tay and Angus. Its extent from east to west is about sixty miles; and from north to south nearly the same.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The south and east parts of Perthshire contain many vallies and plains of fertile arable land, great part of which consists of clay or strong loam, and being in general cultivated in a very superior manner, yields weighty crops of all kinds of grain.

The north and west divisions (by far the most extensive) are remarkably wild and rugged. There mountains, hills and vales are to be seen in endless variety. These however abound with pasture for horses, black cattle, sheep, goats and deer, with all which they are well stored.

In many of the vallies between the mountains, barley, bear, or big, oats, pease, and potatoes, are cultivated to a considerable extent, though the system of husbandry, and the value of the crops, bear no comparison with those in the low country. Very large quantities of grain are annually exported, sometimes to London, but for the most part to Glasgow and the towns along the coasts of the frith of Forth.

Forests and Woodlands.—There are many extensive tracts of coppice oak and birch in various parts of the county, especially along the sides of

the

the different lakes and rivers in the highlands. There are also several considerable plantations of larch, plane, elm, oak, beech, Scots fir, &c. in other parts of the district; but hitherto the farmers have not been much benefited by these in regard to a supply of timber, that article being chiefly imported from the Baltic.

Towns, Manufactures and Commerce.—Besides the town of Perth, which is both large and populous, there are several small towns and villages. The manufactures of Perthshire are linens of various kinds, and to a large amount. The town of Perth also enjoys some share of the Baltic trade. The salmon-fishings of the Tay are well known. They afford a very valuable article of export.

Live Stock, Horses.—In the south and east quarters of this district, the horses are not inferior to any on the eastern coast of Scotland.

Towards the centre of the county, (where artificial grasses are only partially introduced), the horses are of a middle size between these on the confines of the county and those which are bred on the hilly and mountainous parts of the district. Of this last sort many thousands were annually reared; but since the late pretty general introduction of sheep-husbandry, the number is greatly decreased.

Black Cattle.—There are two distinct breeds, the highland, and lowland. The former is of a

small size, but well shaped, hardy, and disposed to fatten. The other is considerably larger, but having been crossed and mixed with the breeds of other countries, is deficient in many of those points which are deemed essential in the form of a handsome ox.

Falkirk is the great market at which the Perthshire cattle are disposed of, and from thence they are sent into England in great numbers.

Sheep.—It is only of late years that sheep-husbandry, on any regular system, has been attended to in this district. In the highlands the Tweeddale sort now universally prevails. Some proprietors, in the more fertile parts of the low country, have lately purchased some of the best breeds from England. As these are managed with much attention and judgment, there is every reason to hope, that the introduction of them will prove ultimately beneficial.

CARSE OF GOWRIE.

The Vale, or Carse of Gowrie,* so much celebrated for its fertility, merits a particular and separate

* The late Duke of Cumberland being at Perth, on his return southward after the battle of Culloden, the magistrates of that town made him a present of the castle
of

separate description, which, however, shall be made as concise as possible.

This valuable tract is situated in the east corner of the county of Perth, and is every where skirted by high hills, except on the south, where it is bounded by the frith and river of Tay, both of which have been long and justly famed for the great numbers of salmon with which they abound.

The Carse of Gowrie, including the sloping lands on the northern boundary, contains about 30,000 English statute acres. The rent of those farms which have been let within these eight or ten years, may be reckoned at rather above 35 shillings the English acre.

The soil in the vale or plain, is a deep rich clay; on the sides of the hills a hazle coloured loam most generally prevails. In stating the gross annual produce of the soil, (which, it is believed, is equal in quantity and value to any other district of similar extent in Britain, the vicinity of large cities or manufacturing towns only excepted), it may be proper to observe, that the mode of cropping generally approved of, and now for the most part adopted, is, *1st*, Fallow; *2^d*, Wheat; *3^d*, Pease or beans; *4th*,
Barley

of Gowrie, situated there, on which His Royal Highness requested to know if the vale of Gowrie went along with the castle, and seemed greatly disappointed when he received an answer in the negative.

Barley with red clover, and a small quantity of rye-grass; 5th, Grass; and, 6th, Oats; and as all the crops are cultivated in equal proportions, the following table will show, not only the average returns, but also the prices at which they have been sold for a number of years by past; and may at the same time be depended upon, as being more correct in regard to *data* than tables of this kind generally are.

A TABLE, exhibiting the Extent and Value of the annual gross produce of the Carse of Gowrie, supposing it to contain 30,000 English acres, and to be all cultivated agreeable to the rotation above mentioned.

Rotation and number of acres.	Average produce <i>per</i> acre in bushels.	Total produce in Winchester quarters.	Average prices <i>per</i> quarter.	Total crop of hay in stones of 22 lb. Amsterdam.	Average price of hay <i>per</i> stone.	Value in money.	
						L.	s. d.
5000 fallow,			s. d.				
5000 wheat,	27	16875	43	-	-	36281	5 0
5000 pease or beans,	23	14375	27 4	-	-	19645	16 8
5000 barley,	38	23750	31 10	-	-	25927	1 8
5000 grass, which may average 140 stone of hay <i>per</i> acre.	-	-	-	700000	7 d.	21416	13 4
5000 oats,	46½	29062½	30 4	-	-	29546	17 0
Produce of orchards,	-	-	-	-	-	1000	0 0
30,000 acres.		84062½		700000		132817	13 8

By this table, it appears, that the annual gross produce of grain in this district may be estimated

at upwards of 84,000 Winchester quarters. But as on many farms rotations of cropping are adopted, whereby more than one sixth part is every year under wheat, it is probable that the value of the crops is rather above than below what is stated.

In no part of the island are more luxuriant crops of red clover to be seen than in the Carfe of Gowrie. The second crop is frequently made into hay, and the third is often mown for the purpose of feeding the horses in the stables, and the cattle in the straw-yards.

As the inhabitants of the district do not exceed eight thousand, it is evident, that the exports of grain must be very great indeed. Glasgow is the principal market, though large quantities are also sent to London, Leith, and other places on the south-east coast.

The size of the farms are in general from one to three hundred acres; but the greatest proportion is occupied by farmers who possess upwards of two hundred acres.

ANGUS.

Situation and Extent.—The county of Angus or shire of Forfar, is bounded on the west by Perth, on the north by Mearns and Aberdeen, on the east by the German ocean, and on the south by the

the frith of Tay, which separates it from Fife. Its greatest length from north to south is nearly forty miles, from east to west upwards of thirty.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—Towards the shores of the ocean and the frith, the surface is much diversified with hill and dale. The interior part of the country (forming part of the great level tract of Strathmore), is an extensive plain of fertile land, having many well cultivated fields sloping towards the bottoms of the different hills on either side.

The remainder is very mountainous, being part of that vast range of hills called the Grampians, and is principally occupied as pasturage for sheep and black cattle.

The soil is various : Along the coast it is generally light and friable. In Strathmore it is either clay or deep black loam, and in the valleys between the mountains the soil is more or less blended with moss. Oats, barley, and turnips are the crops cultivated to the greatest extent ; wheat, pease and flax, are however very common crops in many parts of the district.

A great proportion of the arable lands, perhaps nearly the one half, is devoted to grazing cattle : a branch of husbandry which is better known, and more generally practised in this county than in any other in Scotland. The cattle are either purchased in the end of the season at Falkirk, or the markets in the county, and after being kept in the straw-yard during winter,

ter, are put to grafs early in May. Many are alfo purchafed from the counties of Mearns, Aberdeen, Banff, and Moray, at the beginning of the grafs feafon.

Forefts and Woodlands.—The only natural woods are thofe on the banks of the rivers in the higher part of the county. Thefe, however, are neither extenfive nor valuable; and although numerous plantations are fcattered over the moft cultivated parts of the country, yet thefe have hitherto proved of little importance in an agricultural view, beyond procuring rails for the protection of the thorn fences, to which ufe the weedings of thofe plantations are for the moft part applied.

Towns, Manufactures and Commerce.—There are five royal boroughs, viz. Dundee, Arbroath, Montrofe, Brechin and Forfar, (which laft is the county town), befides a great number of villages in different parts of the diftrict. Dundee is large and very populous: it is the moft confiderable town in the fhire, and has more trade and manufactures than all the others put together.

This county poffeffes more trade, and carries on manufactures to a greater extent, than any other on the eaft coaft of Scotland. The foreign commerce is chiefly confined to the Baltic trade. The ftaple articles of manufacture are fail-cloth, ofnaburgs, and coarfe linens, of which immense quantities are annually fent to London, and from thence exported to North America and the Weft Indies. There are alfo feveral other manufactures

nufactures established, as white and brown thread, cottons, tanned leather, shoes, glass, &c. all of which are in a thriving state. Great quantities of grain are exported yearly to Leith, Glasgow, and other places; but considering the populousness of the county, and that oat-meal to a considerable amount is annually imported from Berwick, and the north-east coast, as Banff, Aberdeen, &c. and large quantities of flour from England, it is not probable that the balance in favour of the county is very great in this respect.

Live Stock, Horses, &c. see page 83.

Black Cattle.—The black cattle in the remote parts of the district, are like all those in the highlands of Scotland, of a small size, weighing when fat only from 18 to 24 stone Amsterdam.

In those parts of the county where improvements in agriculture have been introduced, and the lands inclosed, the breed of black cattle is much improved, weighing generally from 40 to 60 stone; but of late the farmers have turned their attention more to grazing than rearing black cattle. These, being fed some months on the rich pastures of Strathmore, are either sent into England, or disposed of for the supply of the manufacturing towns in this and the neighbouring counties*.

Sheep.
* To so great an extent is this trade carried on, that one farmer, Mr David Millar, at Mains of Glamis, has sometimes from L. 8000 or L. 10,000 value of cattle on the road to the English markets.

Sheep.—There are three different breeds of sheep: The most numerous are those of the Tweeddale sort, which range on the mountains on the confines of Aberdeenshire. In the vallies lying immediately north of Strathmore, and especially where cultivation has taken place, the small white-faced ancient breed are to be found. On several farms in the low parts of the country, where the richest pastures abound, the Bakewell and Culley breeds have been introduced.

MEARNS.

Situation and Extent.—Kincardineshire, or the county of the Mearns, is bounded on the south and west by Angus, on the east by the German Ocean, and on the north by the county of Aberdeen. Its form is triangular, its greatest length from east to west is about 30 miles, and it extends along the coast from south to north, upwards of twenty.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The north and west divisions of this county are very mountainous, and contain a part of the Grampian hills, which, from their altitude, and being covered either with heath or peat moss, are of little value in an agricultural view. They however afford pasturage for some flocks of sheep,

in several of the vallies, cultivation has taken place to a certain extent.

The remainder of the county is, in general, level*; the prevailing soils are either clay or strong loam: Here improvements in agriculture are carried on with considerable spirit. Wheat is but little cultivated, except along the coast. Oats, barley or bear, pease, beans and potatoes, are the general crops.

Forests and Woodlands.—There are many thriving plantations in various parts of this district; but there also remains much land that might be occupied in that way, greatly to the advantage of the public, as well as of the proprietors.

Towns, Manufactures and Commerce.—The most considerable and populous town is Stonehaven. Bervie is the only royal borough, but the commerce and manufactures of this county are inconsiderable. As the grain raised in the district is more than equal to the consumpt of the inhabitants, considerable quantities are annually exported, chiefly to Glasgow and the frith of Forth, or over land to Aberdeen and Montrose.

Live Stock, Horses.—See page 83.

Black
* Strathmore or the *great Strath*, commences at Stonehaven in this county, and extends west to Stirling, being upwards of 90 miles, and includes parts of the counties of Mearns, Angus, Perth and Stirling.

Black Cattle.—The breed of black cattle has been much improved of late years, both in size and value. Oxen of three years old sell from L. 6 to L. 8, and when fatted for the butcher, weigh from 30 to 40 stone Amsterdam. In the highlands, where artificial grasses are little cultivated, both horses and black cattle are of a small size. The greatest number of the cattle reared in this district are disposed of to dealers from Angus, who graze them for a few months, and then send them southward, either to Falkirk fair, or directly to England.

Sheep.—There are scarcely any of this species of stock in the cultivated parts of the county. Those on the Grampian mountains are either of the black faced or Tweeddale sort, or the ancient breed of the district, which last are of a small size, weighing, when fat, from 7 lb. to 10 lb. *per* quarter.

ABERDEEN.

Situation and Extent.—Aberdeenshire is bounded on the south by the counties of Mearns, Angus, and Perth, on the west by Inverness, on the north-west by Banff, and on the north and north east by the German ocean. Its extent from north-east to south-west is nearly 80 miles, its breadth about 30.

Surface,

Surface, Soil, and Modes of Occupation.—From the town of Aberdeen to the north-east corner of the county, along the coast, (a tract of very considerable extent,) the surface is in general level.

The interior part of the district abounds with hills, and towards the western extremity there are many immense mountains, whose rugged and lofty summits exhibit scenes truly awful and romantic.

The soil in the level part of the county is in general clay of various qualities, but such as under proper management is capable of producing good crops.

In the vallies the prevalent soil is black loam, mixed more or less with gravel and small stones. There is very little wheat cultivated in this county, and turnips only very partially. Oats, barley or bear, pease and potatoes, are the most general crops.

The hills and mountains are principally occupied as pasturage for black cattle and sheep, though on the borders of the counties of Perth and Inverness, large tracts are appropriated to the pasturage of deer.

Forests and Woodlands.—There are some large forests of natural pine in the south-west corner of this county. The trees are of a very large size, and the timber equal in quality to any imported from the Baltic. Extensive plantations are to

be

be seen in various parts of the district, and the number is yearly increasing, a circumstance which cannot fail in time to add to the riches, as well as to the ornament of this part of the kingdom.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Besides the town of Aberdeen, which is large and populous, there are several others, the most considerable of which, are Peterhead and Huntly. The principal manufactures are those of knitted stockings, for which Aberdeenshire has been long famous, and the spinning, weaving, and printing of cotton cloth. The commerce of Aberdeen is considerable. The exports or imports of grain on an average of a number of years, are pretty much on a par, the produce of the county being in general about equal to the consumption of the inhabitants. In favourable seasons, however, large quantities of oat-meal are exported to Angus, and other manufacturing counties on the south-east coast of Scotland.

Live Stock, Horses.—The breed of horses, though much improved of late years, principally owing to the introduction of two horse ploughs, have not yet attained to the size of those in the districts, on the south side of the Grampian hills.

Black Cattle.—Great numbers of black cattle are annually reared in the district. They are in general of a middle size, well shaped, and sell at high prices according to their size; when fat,
they

they weigh from 24 to 30 stone Amsterdam. Many thousands are annually sold; they are generally disposed of to dealers from the southern counties, or to people who reside in the county, and who make a trade of sending them directly to England.

Sheep.—The most approved system of sheep husbandry is little understood, and less practised in this district. The Tweeddale breed has been introduced, and are common in the south-west part of the district; but the original breed, though smaller in size, are still in favour in the interior part of the county.

BANFF.

Situation and Extent.—This county is bounded on the south-east by Aberdeen, on the north by the Moray frith, and on the west by the county of Moray. It is of a triangular form, its greatest extent from north-east to south-west is upwards of 50 miles, and its breadth along the coast is about 30.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—This is as mountainous a district as any on the east coast of Scotland; there are however many extensive vallies among the mountains, towards the centre and south-west corner of the county. Along the shore of the Moray frith, there are several plains or gentle slopes of valuable land, which
may

may be denominated hilly rather than mountainous. But the greatest part of Banffshire, may be said to be incapable of cultivation, or improvement of any kind but by planting.

In the mountainous part of the county, which is in general covered with heath, intermixed in some places with a coarse kind of grass, great numbers of sheep, cattle and horses are annually reared; some part of it is also devoted to the pasturage of deer.

The predominant soil on the coast and near the banks of the rivers, is a rich hazle loam. On the declivity of the hills, it is a deep strong black soil of a good quality, but owing to the moistness of the climate, the crops are frequently very precarious. Oats, barley, pease, turnips, potatoes and flax, are the ordinary crops. In favourable seasons oat-meal to a large amount, is exported to the West Highlands, Glasgow, &c.

Forests and Woodlands.—On the banks of the rivers many remains of ancient forests are to be seen, but being only birch, and alder coppice, are of little value.

There are very extensive and numerous plantations in different parts of the county, particularly towards the shore of the Frith, where several noblemen and gentlemen reside. These plantations will in a few years produce timber more than sufficient for the annual consumpt.

Towns,

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Banff is the head borough. It is also a sea-port, besides which there are other two, *viz.* Portfoy and Macduff; all which enjoy some share of commerce. There are several manufacturing towns and villages in the inland part of the county. The principal manufactures are linen-yarn, linens and thread. Along the coast there are many fishing villages, from whence are exported to the south-east coast of Scotland, dried fish to a considerable amount. In good seasons large quantities of grain are exported.

Live Stock, Horses.—The breed of this useful animal has been much improved, since the practice of ploughing with two horses has been generally introduced. Such as are of strength sufficient for that operation, sell at from L. 30 to L. 50 a-pair. In the more remote parts of the district, where 8 or 10 small oxen are used in the plough, the horses are of a very inferior size, and are sold at from L. 5 to L. 8 or L. 10 each.

Black Cattle.—There are few counties in Scotland, according to its size, where greater numbers of black cattle are annually reared than in this; and though it is certainly true, that before the more opulent farmers adopted the practice of ploughing with two horses, the breed of cattle was of a larger size, and more attended to than at present, yet they are still held in

considerable

considerable estimation by the south country dealers, who are commonly the purchasers, being handsome, well shaped, and capable of enduring fatigue. Oxen of three or four years old sell at from L. 4 to L. 7 each. The cows are reckoned good milchers, yielding from 14 to 20 English quarts of milk *per* day.

Sheep.—The small white-faced native breed is still retained on some farms, but the Tweeddale sort has been pretty generally introduced. Attempts have also been made to introduce some of the English breeds on well-cultivated farms along the coast. But no regular system of sheep-husbandry, on a large scale, has hitherto been adopted in any part of Banffshire.

ELGIN.

Situation and Extent.—The county of Elgin or Moray is bounded on the east by Banff; on the south and west by Inverness and Nairn; and on the north by the Moray frith. Its form is very irregular, being intersected by a part of Invernesshire towards the north-west. Its extreme length from east to west is nearly fifty miles, along the coast; it measures thirty miles in a direct line.

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Q

Surface,

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The surface for several miles inland from the coast is level, with a few gentle eminences, which being either cultivated to the summits, or ornamented with thriving plantations, give it an appearance of fertility and richness not to be met with, in such an extent of landscape, north of the Grampian hills.

The remainder of the district is mountainous, and principally employed in pasturage. In the vales, and on the banks of the rivers, there are many fertile spots of arable lands, which under proper management would become very productive.

The soil of this district is extremely various. Clay, deep rich loam, and light gravelly or sandy soils, prevail in the low country. In the valleys it is generally loam, and on the sides of the hills it is light, and in many places mixed with a certain portion of moss. The level part of this county yields good crops of all kinds. In the higher districts, bear or bigg, oats and potatoes, are the prevailing crops. Large quantities of wheat, barley, oats and oat-meal, are annually exported, for the most part to Leith and Glasgow, though barley and oats are sometimes sent to the London market.

Forests and Woodlands.—In the higher part of this district there are forests of natural pine, which are said to exceed in extent all the natural

ral fir woods in Scotland put together. From these forests, timber to a very large amount is annually floated down the river Spey to the sea at Garmouth, where it is either used in ship-building, or exported to the neighbouring counties, and to many parts of England. From Garmouth, also, many masts and yards have been sent to his Majesty's dock-yards. On the banks of the river Findhorn, in the north-west corner of the district, are the remains of a very large forest of oaks and other trees, which being again inclosed and planted, principally with young oaks, bids fair to become a great advantage, as well as ornament, to that part of the country.

The plantations in almost every part of the county, are extensive, numerous and thriving, and the timber must, in the course of time, become a valuable article of export.

Towns, Manufactures and Commerce. — The principal towns are Elgin and Forres, both royal boroughs. But from their inland situation, they are destitute of foreign commerce; nor are there manufactures of any consequence hitherto established in the district. This county has for ages been considered as the storehouse of the north of Scotland for grain; and notwithstanding the increased population, some thousand quarters are annually exported.

Live Stock, Horses. — From the cause already mentioned in the account of Banffshire, namely,

ly, the introduction of the mode of ploughing with two horses, the breed of horses has been greatly improved in point of size of late years in Moray ; and attention has been paid by certain individuals to farther improvements in this respect, by purchasing mares of a large size from the south of Scotland. The price of a pair of plough horses is nearly the same as in the county of Banff.

Black Cattle.—Since the introduction of artificial grasses, the breed of black cattle has greatly improved in size in the low part of this district ; great numbers from thence, as well as from the remote parts of the county, are annually sold to dealers from Banffshire or Angus. Those bred in the low country sell, when three years old, at from L. 4 to L. 6 and upwards. The Highland cattle, being much inferior in point of size, generally sell at from L. 2, 10 s. to L. 4.

Sheep.— There are two breeds of sheep in Moray. The small white-faced original breed is most common towards the bottoms of the hills adjoining to the plain ; but these, owing to their being stinted in their food, and in a great measure neglected, are of very little value ; though there is every reason to believe, that if properly cared for in these respects, great improvements might be effected, both in regard to the size of the animal, and the weight and quality of its wool.

wool. On the hills in the south-west part of the county, there are several pretty extensive farms stocked with the black-faced or Tweeddale sort; and from this part of the district the inhabitants of the towns and villages on the coast are principally supplied with mutton.

N A I R N.

Situation and Extent.—This small county is bounded on the north by the Moray frith, on the east and south by the county of Moray, and on the west by that of Inverness. Its extreme length from north to south is about 20 miles, its medium breadth nearly 12.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—Along the shore of the Moray frith, for some miles, this county exhibits the appearance of a plain, including many gentle eminencies, which if planted would tend greatly to beautify the prospect. The soil may be denominated a sharp gravelly loam, which when properly cultivated amply repays the labours of the husbandman. Improvements in agriculture have, however, been but very partially introduced, except on the farms occupied by the proprietors. In general, artificial grasses, turnip crops, &c. are but little known among the farmers. Bear, or
bigg,

bigg, an inferior kind of oats, and potatoes, are the most prevailing crops; but where proper attention is paid to the cultivation of the soil, the quality of the grain is equal to that produced in any other part of the north of Scotland. The south part of the county is incumbered with many hills, or rather mountains, very destitute of verdure, and which only afford a scanty pasturage to a few small-sized cattle and sheep.

Forests and Woodlands.—There are some tracts of natural woods, and also several thousand acres of thriving plantations, a considerable part of which, having been planted many years ago, are now arrived at such a size, as not only to be equal to supply the demand for timber within the county, but also to furnish a considerable article of export to the neighbouring districts.

Towns, Manufactures and Commerce.—Nairn is the only royal borough, or town of any note, in the county, and, though advantageously situated in the vicinity of the Moray frith, is destitute of any kind of commerce or manufactures. The grain raised in the district is more than sufficient for the inhabitants, and in favourable seasons several cargoes are exported. On the point of Arderfier, a peninsula running into the Moray frith, is Fort George, a strong and regular fortress, containing several regular streets, and accommodation for upwards of 3000 men.

Live

Live Stock, Horses.—Improvements in agriculture having only begun to gain ground of late years, and the introduction of two horse ploughs being of modern date, little attention has hitherto been paid to improvements in the different breeds of stock. The horses are in general of a small size, from eight to ten hands high, and, when five years old, sell from L. 5 to L. 10.

Black Cattle.—The cattle are also of a small size, especially in the highland part of the country, where turnip husbandry is little known; they sell, when three or four years old, at about L. 3 each, and when fat, will weigh about 20 stone Amsterdam.

Sheep.—There is perhaps no county in Scotland where there are such numbers of the small white faced original breed to be found as here*. Few attempts have hitherto been made to introduce better breeds, nor will that probably happen till the size of the farms are enlarged, and artificial grasses and turnips be more generally introduced.

The small county of Cromarty, may, in a description of this kind, be very properly connected

* By the Statistical Account of Scotland, published by Sir John Sinclair, it appears, that there are nearly 20,000 in this small county.

ed with the county of Ross, as it is bounded on all sides by that shire, except on the east, where the Moray frith forms a boundary to both.

ROSS and CROMARTY.

Situation and Extent.—This district is bounded on the east by the Moray frith, on the north by Sutherland, on the west by the Atlantic Ocean, and on the south by Inverness. It extends nearly 60 miles from north to south, and upwards of 70 from east to west.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—Along the shores of the friths of Moray and Cromarty, and towards the north and east boundary, the surface is in general level, abounding in rich well-cultivated corn-fields.

On the south-west coast there are some considerable tracts of level land, and many fertile vallies; but the interior part of this extensive district, especially the north-west division, is perhaps one of the most desolate mountainous regions in Scotland, abounding with rocks, moss and heath.

The soil, as may be naturally expected in such an extent of country, is very different, being partly strong clay, partly loam, and partly gravelly or light and sandy; but that which bears the greatest proportion is loam of various kinds and qualities, and, where cultivated under any regular

regular system, produces crops little inferior to what are to be seen in the more southern parts of the kingdom; there is, however, every reason to believe, from the very defective modes of cultivation adopted by the generality of the farmers, as well as from the quantities of oat-meal annually imported, that the grain raised in this district is not equal to the consumpt of the inhabitants.

Forests and Woodlands.—There now remain but few vestiges of the extensive forests which, in former times, covered vast tracts of this county. The proprietors, however, feeling the inconveniency arising from a deficiency of timber, have formed many large plantations, which, added to the considerable woods around their places of residence, must, in the course of a few years, afford a sufficient supply of this necessary article without having recourse to importation from other countries.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—The principal towns are those of Tain, Dingwall, Cromarty, and Fortrose; but there is no foreign commerce carried on in this district, and scarcely any manufactures, except one of sail-cloth and canvas, on a large scale, at Cromarty. Some fishing villages have lately been erected on the west coast, under the patronage of the Society established for promoting the British Fisheries; but what success may attend the endeavours of that Society, time only can determine.

Live Stock, Horses.—Where improvements in agriculture have been introduced, attention has been paid to the breed of horses. They are above the middle size, and generally sell from L. 12 to L. 18. The greatest number, however, are small, and do not sell when in their prime at above 4 or L. 5.

Black Cattle.—Are the staple product of this district. On the sale of these the farmers chiefly depend for paying their rents. In the highland part of the county they are of a small size, but hardy and well shaped. Many thousands of them are purchased by cattle dealers from the south and west of Scotland, who again dispose of them at Falkirk, or to graziers in England. The average price of young cattle may be about L. 2, 15 s. each, and a cow of 4 or 5 years old, brings from L. 3 to L. 5.

Sheep.—In several parts of Ross-shire the south country breeds of sheep have been for years introduced, and some short time ago attempts were made to carry sheep husbandry on a large scale into very general practice throughout the mountainous part of the district. The poorer class of farmers and inhabitants, however, alarmed at the prospect of being forced to abandon their native country, rose in a body to oppose the measure. In consequence of military aid being called in, these poor misguided people were soon dispersed. But it may be ob-

served

served with propriety, that sound policy as well as humanity, ought to induce the proprietors of such lands to make a proper provision for their tenants, before they introduce a system of husbandry, which, under the present management, must have the effect in a great measure of depopulating the country.

SUTHERLAND.

Situation and Extent.—This county is bounded on the south by Ross-shire, and the frith of Dornock; on the east, by Caithness and the Moray frith; and on the north and west, by the Atlantic Ocean. Its figure is very irregular, its greatest extent from north to south is about 54 miles, and from east to west about 50.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—Sutherland may be described as a very mountainous county, having in general a narrow border of level land along the coasts. The arable land bears but a small proportion to that in pasturage; many of the rugged mountains are in a state of absolute sterility.

Except the borders along the coasts, and bays, and some of the glens, and vallies between the mountains, the whole county is occupied as pasturage for horses, black cattle, sheep, goats, deer, &c.

The

The soil in the cultivated parts of the district is either fertile loam, or light and gravelly, mixed with a kind of blue sand. In some places it is mossy, very wet and spouty; but, owing to the wretched system of husbandry, (keeping the lands constantly under tillage), which is too generally practised, the returns even on the best lands are very indifferent. Oats, bear and potatoes, are almost the only crops cultivated.

Forests and Woodlands.—In this county there are several extensive tracts of waste land allotted to the pasturage of deer, and denominated forests, though now destitute of trees. There are, however, a few remains of ancient trees, and in some parts, particularly towards the south-west corner, extensive plantations have lately been formed.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Dornock is the county town; but is a place of no foreign commerce, and possesses very little trade. The whole district may be said to be without manufactures, except that of spinning linen yarn, and a cotton manufacture, which has been lately established under the patronage of one of the proprietors*, a gentleman whose earnest and constant desire to promote the happiness of his fellow

* George Dempster, Esq;

fellow subjects, and the general improvement of the country, is well known.

Live Stock, Horses.—There are a great many more horses reared here than are requisite for carrying on the operations of husbandry. Numbers are annually purchased at a year old, by dealers from Orkney : The average price is from L. 2 to L. 3 ; those of a larger size give from L. 4 to L. 5. Of late, dealers from the south have purchased considerable numbers, which has increased the demand, and consequently tended to advance the price.

Black Cattle—Here, as well as in Ross-shire, continue to be the staple production, and in which the riches of the farmers principally consist. They are equal in size and quality to any in the North Highlands. Milch cows sell from L. 3 to L. 4 and L. 5. Young cattle proper for driving into England, or the south of Scotland, bring on an average from L. 2, 10 s. to L. 3 each, according to the demand.

Sheep.—The Tweeddale breed of sheep has been introduced on some farms here. But there yet remains many thousands of the small white-faced kind, common in all the northern districts, and which might certainly be much improved in size of carcase, as well as in the quantity and quality of the wool, were proper attention paid to cross them with the Cheviot, many of which breed are now in this district.

CAITH-

CAITHNESS.

Situation and Extent.—This county occupies the north-east corner of the Island. It is surrounded on all sides by the sea, except on the west, where it is bounded by Sutherland. Its form is triangular; its greatest extent from north to south is about thirty-five miles, and from east to west upwards of twenty.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The whole south west part of the shire is occupied by great mountains; towards the north and north east there are also several promontories and capes. There are extensive tracts of arable lands in many places around the coast; but the remainder may be called an immense morass, interspersed with many fruitful spots, producing oats, barley, and great quantities of grass, generally of a coarse inferior quality.

Loam, of various qualities, with an intermixture of moss, in some places, and sand and gravel in others, is the general character of the soil. There is, perhaps, no district in Britain where such an extent of valuable land, highly susceptible of cultivation, is lying in a state of nature, and producing only coarse pasturage, as in this; But whoever will read the long list of services* that

* These are particularly enumerated in the 17th page of the Xth volume of the Statistical Account of Scotland.

that the tenants were formerly obliged to perform to their superiors, and which are still in force on many estates at the present day, will not be surprised that improvements in agriculture have not reached a country where the minds and persons of the peasantry are kept in such abject bondage.

Forests and Woodlands.—There is no county of the same extent in Scotland where so few trees are to be seen as in Caithness. It is however worthy of remark, that in many of the swamps and mosses large trees are frequently dug up, which is a convincing proof that in ancient times this country was stocked with wood. But for many years past, every attempt to raise trees on the sea-coast has proved abortive.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Wick on the south side, and Thurso on the north, are the principal towns. In consequence of the extensive herring, cod, and salmon fishings carried on in the neighbourhood, they enjoy some share of coasting trade. Manufactures are as yet in their infancy. The patriotic President of the Board of Agriculture, who is a considerable proprietor in this district, is however using his endeavours to introduce them: And from his unremitting attention to every object calculated to promote the good of his country, there is every reason to hope he will be successful. Were a few gentlemen to set an example, by entirely

tirely abolishing on their own estates those remains of the feudal system, to which so many of the tenants in the northern counties of Scotland are still subjected, they would render a very essential service to that part of the united kingdom.

Live Stock, Horses.—The breed of horses here are similar in point of size and value to those reared in Sutherland. They are generally about four feet high, very hardy, and requiring little care. Numbers are purchased when young by people from Orkney, and when past their prime are again reimported into Caithness, where they frequently sell at high prices considering their advanced age.

Black Cattle.—Black cattle are so similar to those reared in Sutherland, as to render any particular description unnecessary. Several thousands are annually purchased by dealers in the county, and driven to Falkirk, and other markets, from whence the greater number of them are sent into England, where, after being fattened for twelve or eighteen months on the rich pastures of that country, many of them are sold in Smithfield market.

Sheep.—The Cheviot breed have been introduced into the high parts of this district, and are likely to thrive; but the greatest part of Caithness is too wet and swampy for being converted into sheep-walks.



ORKNEY ISLANDS.

Situation and Extent.—These isles (of which there are nearly thirty inhabited), are separated from the north-east extremity of Scotland by the Pentland frith, the most rapid and dangerous to navigate of any on the coasts of Britain.

The most extensive of these, which it is only meant here to describe, is sometimes called *Pomona*, but more frequently the Main land. It is nearly 24 miles in length, and about 9 in breadth.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The appearance of the country is bleak and barren. It is incumbered with many hills, and marshy swamps, which being covered with heath, and destitute of trees, add to the gloominess of the scene. But notwithstanding the general unpromising appearance of the surface, these hills yield pasturage to numerous flocks of sheep, and herds of cattle and horses. The soil of the arable lands is in some places a rich black loam, on a bed of soft mouldering rock, but near the shore it is of a more light and sandy nature, and when the least degree of attention is paid to the cultivation, (which by the by is very seldom the case), produces tolerable crops of black

or rather grey oats, and a kind of inferior barley, which are the only species of grain raised in these isles. Potatoes are also cultivated in considerable quantities. But agriculture is here in a very imperfect state. This is easily accounted for, from the circumstance of the tenants having no leases, and being principally engaged in fishing, from the produce of which their rents are chiefly paid.

Towns, Manufactures and Commerce.—Kirkwall may be denominated the capital of Orkney. The only other town of any note is Stromness, which is situated opposite to Kirkwall on the west side of the main land. This last has an excellent harbour, and is much frequented by vessels sailing along the coasts. The manufactures of Orkney are linen yarn, coarse linen cloth, and kelp. The exports are the articles now mentioned, together with beef, pork, butter, tallow, hides, calf and rabbit skins, salt-fish, oil and feathers, and in favourable seasons some cargoes of grain. The articles imported are wood, flax, coal, leather, tobacco, wines, spirits and groceries. The balance of trade (which is almost entirely confined to Britain), is in favour of these isles, to the extent of several thousand pounds *per annum*.

Live Stock, Horses.—There are few horses reared in these isles. They are generally purchased from Caithness and Shetland at one or

two years old, and when in their prime sell from L. 3 to L. 4, but seldom exceed L. 5.

Black Cattle.—The Orkney islands abound with cattle. They are well shaped, but of a very small size, weighing when fat from 15 to 20 stone Amsterdam. The cows yield milk of a good quality, and in considerable quantities, which, considering the little attention bestowed upon them, and the miserable pastures on which they are fed, is very surprising. The ordinary price of cows runs from L. 2 to L. 2, 10 s. few of them sell so high as L. 3. Numbers of cattle are ferried over to Caithness every year, and are sent from thence along with the cattle of that county to the southern markets.

Sheep.—There are said to be about 50,000 sheep in the different islands in Orkney. They are of a small size, weighing when fat from 5 to 6 lb. *per* quarter, and selling at from L. 4 to L. 5 *per* score. It is supposed they are of the same species with those in the Shetland isles. The wool is of a fine quality, but very small in quantity, not exceeding $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. the fleece.

SHETLAND OR ZETLAND ISLANDS.

Situation and Extent.—These are the most northern islands belonging to Scotland, lying
between

between $59^{\circ} 59'$ and $61^{\circ} 15'$ north latitude. They are very numerous. Upwards of 40 of them are inhabited, and about an equal number entirely devoted to pasturage.

The Main-land, as it is called, extends in length about 60 miles from north to south, but varies in breadth from 3 to 25 miles.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The surface, particularly in the inland part of the island, is craggy, mountainous and barren, but towards the coasts, among the hills are interspersed verdant spots and marshy plains, tolerably fertile both in corn and pasture, though not of any considerable extent.

The arable lands lie near the sea-shores, and round the margins of the different creeks and bays. The soil consists either of a rich black loam or a stiff cold wet clay, but that which most generally prevails is light and sandy.

The crops are for the most part indifferent, owing partly to the coldness and moistness of the climate; but principally to the wretched system of husbandry adopted by the natives, whose chief employment, like that of the people in Orkney, is fishing, to which a great portion of their time is devoted, and on which they principally depend for subsistence. The cultivation of potatoes has been very generally introduced. They are raised in greater or lesser quantities, by every family in the island.

Agriculture

culture is, however, in a very languishing state, and till the proprietors abolish the run-rig, or common field husbandry, convert the slavish services, which their tenants are obliged to perform into a stipulated rent, and grant leases, whereby the people may acquire a permanent interest in the farms which they occupy, there is no reason to hope, that improvements in the cultivation of the soil, or in the breeds of the different species of stock, will ever be carried to any extent, in a country so remote from markets, and where the inhabitants labour under so many inconveniencies*.

Towns,

* Some of these are mentioned in the Statistical Account of a parish in this island, in the following words: "They (the tenants) must fish for their masters, who either give them a fee (wages) entirely inadequate to their labour and their danger, or take their fish at a lower price than others would give. It is true, that in years of scarcity, they must depend upon their landlords for the means of subsistence, and are often deep in their debt. But why not allow them to make the best of their situation? Why not let them have leases upon reasonable terms, and dispose of their produce to those who will give the best price? Why not let them fish for themselves? Why should the laird (landlord) have any claim except for the stipulated rent? Neither the climate nor the soil are favourable to improvements in agriculture; but with proper management much might be done." See Stat. Account, vol. X. page 197.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Lerwick is the only town of any consideration on the island. It possesses some share of commerce, in consequence of being the rendezvous of the fishing vessels or busses from Britain, Holland, Denmark, and other parts.

The exports from this island are much the same with those from Orkney. To these may be added great quantities of stockings, known by the name of Shetland hose. In return for which they import wood, iron, spirits, groceries, and such other articles as they stand in need of.

Live Stock, Horses.—Great numbers of horses are annually bred in the Shetland islands. They are of a very diminutive size; but handsome, strong, hardy, and extremely long lived. They are well known almost in every part of Britain, by the appellation of shelties or Shetland ponies. The ordinary price at which they are sold in these isles, is from L. 2 to L. 3.

Black Cattle.—The only particular in which the cattle of Shetland differ from those in Orkney is, that they are somewhat larger in size, which may be owing to there being a greater quantity of coarse natural grass in the first mentioned islands, which the inhabitants cut and make into hay, and with which they feed their cattle in winter.

Sheep.—The Shetland sheep have been long esteemed for the quality of their wool, of which
the

the finest and most beautiful stockings, shawls, and waistcoat pieces are manufactured.

There seem to have been two original or native breeds of sheep in these islands; which, as they differ materially from each other, require to be taken notice of. The first is what is called in the country, the kindly or cottony fleeced, whose wool is all of the fine quality. The other have a coarse hairy kind of coat above, and fine soft wool below.

Sheep of these original or native breeds are not now so numerous as formerly, owing perhaps to the introduction of breeds from other countries, with a view of improving the size of the animal, and increasing the quantity of wool. And it is probable, if the proprietors are not attentive to prevent it, that the fine wooled sheep of Shetland will be so crossed and mixed with the breeds of other countries, as to render their wool, which now sells at betwixt 2s. and 3s. per pound, comparatively of little value.

INVERNESS AND THE HEBRIDES.

Situation and Extent.—Inverness is one of the most extensive counties in Scotland. It is bounded on the east by Nairn, Moray, and Aberdeen shires, on the south by Perth and Argyle, on the

the west by the Atlantic Ocean, and on the north by Ross-shire. Its extent from north to south is above fifty miles, and from east to west above eighty.

Surface, Soil, and Modes of Occupation.—The whole of this county has a very mountainous and barren appearance, particularly towards the south-west, where *Bennevis*, the highest mountain in Britain, raises its snow-caped summit more than 4300 feet above the level of the sea. Although there are extensive fertile plains surrounding the numerous lakes situated in various parts of this district, and a great many vallies lying between the hills in all directions, yet the arable land bears but a very small proportion to what must ever remain in a state of nature*.

The hills and mountains, however, afford pasturage for immense numbers of horses, black cattle, sheep, goats, stags and roes. On the eastern side of the county, which is the most populous, cultivation is carried on to a considerable extent, and grain is sometimes exported. But the produce of the county is by no means sufficient to supply the inhabitants, large quantities of oat-meal being

* By the Statistical Account of the parish of Kilmalie, in the south-west part of this county, it appears that the extent of that parish is 60 miles in length, and 30 in breadth, containing upwards of 376,960 acres. See Statistical Account, vol. VIII. p. 408.

being annually imported at Fort-William, and other parts on the western coast.

The soil of the arable lands in the vallies and plains is either deep loam or clay; and where cultivation has taken place on the sides of the hills, a light gravelly or sandy soil is most prevalent.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—The only town of any note is Inverness, where there are some manufactures of cordage, canvas, sail-cloth, thread, &c. A communication might be easily opened here between the Western Ocean at Fort-William, and the Moray frith at Inverness, by means of a canal, which may probably take place when commerce and manufactures increase so much as to warrant the expenditure of the necessary sum.

Forests and Woodlands.—This district is well supplied with wood, having numerous forests of great extent, consisting of pine, oak, birch, &c. The most considerable are those of Strathglass, Urquhart, and Glengary. The east side of the county abounds with plantations; which must in a few years afford a valuable article of export.

Live Stock, Horses.—The breed of horses is in general of a small size; they are however well shaped, and extremely hardy. The price runs from L. 7 or L. 8 as high as L. 18 or L. 20.

Black Cattle.—Till the introduction of sheep-husbandry, which has now become pretty general, especially towards the western coast, black cattle was considered the great article, on the sale of which the farmers depended for payment of their rents. And though this species of stock is not so numerous in the county now as formerly, yet great numbers are still annually disposed of in England and the south of Scotland: they are small in size, but handsome and well shaped: they weigh when fat about 20 stone Amsterdam.

Sheep.—The breed of sheep introduced into this county is almost entirely of the Tweeddale sort. There yet remains a few of the ancient white-faced small sheep, but the number is inconsiderable.

THE HEBRIDES OR WESTERN ISLES.

Those which are meant here to be described are a number of small isles, irregularly scattered along the north-west coast of Scotland, and comprehended in the counties of Argyle, Inverness, and Ross. The surface and appearance of those isles vary materially, but in general it is rocky and mountainous, which, added to the moistness of the climate, renders the soil in general by no

means

means favourable to agriculture, although there are in several of them extensive tracts under cultivation, which are highly susceptible of improvement.

The soil is in some places sandy; in others a light thin stratum of black earth, on a bed of gravel or rock, interspersed in some places with flats or meadows; but the greatest proportion is a soft moorish soil; the hills and mountains are covered with heath.

Bear or big, a small kind of black oats, and potatoes, are the only crops produced, and their culture is performed in general in a very slovenly and aukward manner. The inhabitants indeed do not depend so much on the cultivation of the soil, as on the breeding and rearing of black cattle, and their dexterity in fishing, on the success of which they chiefly rely for the payment of their rents, and the maintenance of their families.

The horses are of a very small size, but strong, active, and exceedingly hardy. They are seldom shod, and generally run wild in the hills all the year, except when they are employed in the operations of husbandry, or in the still more laborious task of carrying sea-weed from the shore for making kelp. The price of these animals has risen considerably of late years. A young horse generally sells at from L. 4 to L. 5.

The

The black cattle are also of a small size, and are reared in the same hardy manner as the horses. From 6000 to 7000 may be annually exported to the main land; the average price from L. 2 to L. 2, 10s.

The Tweeddale breed of sheep have been introduced of late, but the ancient breed is most prevalent. They are of a very diminutive size, and sell at from L. 3 to L. 3, 5s. *per score*. The wool is of a fine quality, but so small in quantity that 16 fleeces go to a stone. The price is from 8s. to 10s. *per stone*.

It has been observed, that neither the soil nor climate are favourable to agriculture; but it must also be observed, that other causes contribute to prevent a spirit for improvements, and a habit of industry among the peasantry, from being generally introduced.

The chief obstacle to the introduction of either appears to be the impolitic manner in which the proprietors let their estates. This is frequently done under what is here called Steel Bow*, which may be thus described: The proprietor puts a tenant in possession of a certain number of acres, with a stock of cattle, grain, and implements of husbandry, necessary for carrying

* The Steel Bow of Scotland is very similar, and attended with consequences equally bad with the *metayers* of France. See Young's Tour in France,

rying on the operations of the farm. The produce is annually divided between the proprietor and tenant; but in general in such proportions, as only to leave the tenant a sufficiency for the bare maintenance of his family.

Another and very common mode of letting lands in these isles, still more reprehensible than the former, is for the proprietor to grant a lease of an extensive tract of country to a person, there called a gentleman-farmer, who again lets it, or at least the greatest part, in small lots to a great number of poor people, who thus unfortunately become totally unconnected with their natural guardian, and must submit to the payment of such rent and customs, and the performance of such services as their new superior may think proper to demand.

For more particular information on this subject, the reader is referred to the very accurate Statistical Account of the island of Harris, by the Reverend Mr John Macleod, vol. x. p. 343. Mr Macleod describes the character of the people in that island, in the following words: "They are sober, docile, sagacious, and capable of industry. They are kind and courteous to strangers, hospitable and charitable, even to excess. They have the strongest attachment to their native country, and entertain the most ardent gratitude to benefactors." And in the true spirit of philanthropy, adds, "An object of the
most

most noble and laudable ambition is presented to a liberal and public spirited proprietor of Harris, in the emancipation of so many of the human race, possessed of so many good natural qualities, from a state of servitude, ignorance and sloth."

Mr Pennant in finishing the account of his voyage to the Hebrides, which he undertook in summer 1772, gives so animated a description of the unhappy situation of the people in these isles at that period, and which it must be acknowledged, in too many instances as well there as in the north and north-west Highlands of Scotland, still continues, that the following abstract from the concluding pages of his work is inserted, in order to give an idea of the hardships which the majority of the inhabitants are subjected to.

"Thus (says Mr Pennant) ended this voyage of amusement, successful and satisfactory in every part, unless where imbibed with reflections on the sufferings of my fellow creatures."

"I retired to my chamber, filled with reflections on the various events of my voyage, and every scene by turns presented itself to my imagination. As soon as my eyes were closed, I imagined myself again gently wafted down the sound of Mull," "when a figure dressed in the garb of an ancient warrior floated in the air and before

before me." "As soon as he had fixed my attention, he thus seemed to address himself to me."

"*Stranger*, Thy purpose is not unknown to me, I have attended thee (invisible) in all thy voyage, have sympathised with thee in the rising tear at the misery of my once loved country; and sighs, such as a spirit can emit, have been faithful echoes to those of thy corporeal frame.

"Know that in the days of my existence on earth, I possessed an ample portion of the tract thou seekest to the north. I was the dread of the neighbouring chieftains, the delight of my people, their protector, their friend, their father.

"My progeny for a time supported the great and wild magnificence of the feudal reign.

"The mighty chieftains, the brave and disinterested heroes of old times, by a most violent and surprising transition, at once sunk into the rapacious landlords, determined to compensate the loss of power with the increase of revenue."

"No distinction is at present made between proximity of blood and the most distant stranger. Interest alone creates the preference of man to man. The thousands that with joy expected the return of their chieftain, now retire with fullen grief into their cottages.

"The ancient native, full of the idea of the manly look of the warriors and friends of his youth, is lost in admiration at the degenerate progeny; feature and habit are changed, the
one

one effeminated, the other become ridiculous, by adopting the idle fashions of foreign climes," "lost to all the sweet affections of patriarchal life, What then may I say are the fruits of your travels? What arts have you brought home that will serve to bring subsistence to your people?"

"They require no great matters; a small portion of raiment, a little meal. With sad comparison they learn that chieftains still exist, who make their people their care; and with envy they hear of the improving state of the vassals of an *Argyle*, an *Athol*, a *Breadalbane*, and a *Bute*."

"Return to your country." "Bring them instructors, and they will learn. Teach them the arts adapted to their climate, they would brave the fury of our seas in fishing; send them materials for the coarser manufactures, they would with patience sit down to the loom; they would weave the sails to waft your navies to victory, and part of them rejoice to share the glory in the most distant combats." "If you will totally neglect them, if you will not reside among them, if you will not by your example instruct them in the science of rural œconomy, nor cause them to be taught the useful arts,—leave them (if you will do no more) but the bare power of existence in their native country, and they will not envy you your new luxuries." See Pen-
nant's Tour in Scotland, vol. ii. from p. 420. to the end.

ARGYLE

ARGYLE.

Situation and Extent.—Argyleshire is bounded on the north by Inverness, on the east by Perth and Dumbarton, and on the south and west by the Atlantic ocean. Its length from the south-west to the north-east is nearly 100 miles, its extreme breadth is about 30. Several of the Hebrides are also included in this shire.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—This county is more rugged and mountainous than any other on the south-west of Scotland, but notwithstanding the elevation of the mountains, they afford excellent sheep-pastures, many of them are covered with herbage nearly to their summits, which is to be attributed entirely to their having been for many years pastured by sheep.

The soil in the cultivated part of the county is in general light and sharp, inclining in some places to sand, but in favourable seasons, much more productive than could be expected in so moist a climate, and under modes of cultivation so imperfect, as are adopted by most of the tenants. The ordinary crops, are oats, bear or barley, potatoes and some pease. In the straths or vallies the soil is more wet and spungy,

and is better adapted to the growth of grafs than corn.

Forests and Woodlands.—There are very few parishes in this district, where there are not natural woods of coppice, of oak, birch &c. to a great extent. These woods are cut regularly every 20 or 30 years, in equal proportions yearly, the sale of which brings in a very considerable revenue to the proprietors. The bark generally sells at a high price, and such of the timber as is unfit for domestic purposes, is converted into charcoal. Numerous plantations also adorn the face of the county in many places, which must ultimately turn out profitable to the proprietors.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—The chief town is Inverary, which with Campbellton and Oban have some trade. But they are most noted for being excellent fishing stations, and many small vessels resort annually at the proper season; immense shoals of herrings crowd into every bay and creek in that part of the coast. Manufactures have been little attended to in this district, and none of any consequence have hitherto been established.

Live Stock, Horses.—The horses are not remarkable for being handsome, they are however hardy, active, and easily maintained. In some farms, the labouring horses are allowed to run out on the hills all winter, and are only brought back to the stable, at the commencement of the ploughing

ploughing season. The general price of late years, is from L. 10 to L. 12 each.

Black Cattle.—The Argyleshire black cattle, are considered in the English markets, as at least equal to any other bred in the Highlands of Scotland. They are well shaped, small in the bone, and when fat weigh remarkably well considering their size.

Young cattle proper for driving into England, generally bring from L. 4 to L. 5; but those reared in inclosed pastures, rise to a large size, and sell from L. 8 to L. 10.

Sheep.—The hills and mountains of Argyleshire abound with sheep, 20,000 or 30,000 are frequently to be seen in one parish. The Tweeddale breed are by far the most numerous, a considerable number of the small white-faced sort still remain, and a few from the Cheviot hills have been introduced. The easy access from this county to the markets of Glasgow, and the manufacturing towns in its neighbourhood, will no doubt render this system of husbandry profitable to the Argyleshire farmers. While the establishment of it in the most remote parts of Scotland, where commerce and manufactures are little known, will in all probability be attended with disappointment to the proprietors and farmers, and prove a real and irreparable injury to the state.

DUM-

DUMBARTON.

Situation and Extent.—Dumbartonshire is bounded on the west by Argyle, on the south by Lanark and Renfrew, on the east by Stirling, and on the north by Perth. Its form resembles a crescent: Its greatest length is nearly 50 miles: Its extreme breadth about twenty.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The greatest part of this county, especially where it borders on Argyleshire, is incumbered with mountains, or occupied by that extensive lake of fresh water called Lochlomond. On the south and east sides, the fields are either level, or gently diversified with hill and dale.

The soil, in the plains and along the banks of the rivers, is generally a strong clay of a very cohesive nature: In other parts of the county the soil is loam, though differing materially in its texture and quality. These soils are naturally fertile, and, when proper attention is bestowed on their cultivation, the crops are not inferior to any in that part of the kingdom. Wheat is only sown on some particular farms; oats and barley are the principal crops on which the farmers depend. Pease, potatoes, turnips, and flax are cultivated in some parts of the district.

Forests

Forests and Woodlands.—The natural woods in this county are numerous and thriving; they are managed in the same manner as the other coppice woods in the kingdom, and the annual returns arising from the sale of the bark and wood is very considerable.

The spirit of planting also prevails among the proprietors; and many thriving plantations are now become an ornament to the county, and will, at a future period, not only enrich the owners, but also supply a sufficiency of timber for carrying on the different operations of agriculture, manufactures, and trade.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Dumbarton is the only royal borough; it is a seaport, and a place of some trade. There is a considerable manufacture of glass established there. In the neighbourhood there are several fields for bleaching and printing linens, where these operations are carried on to a great extent, as well as in some other parts of the county.

Live Stock, Horses.—In the more fertile part of the county the breed of horses are of a large size, handsome and well proportioned. The average price, when five or six years old, is from L. 18 to L. 25 each. In the mountainous parts of the county, the horses are of much the same size and value, as mentioned in the preceding account of Argyle.

Black Cattle.—There are few cattle reared here, compared to the number which are purchased from other districts, to be kept over winter, and fattened in the inclosures the ensuing summer. They are either disposed of in Glasgow, and the other manufacturing towns in the neighbourhood, or sold to drovers from England, at the great fair of Falkirk in the end of the grass season.

The ancient breed are still met with, in considerable numbers, in the highland or northern divisions, and do not differ in any respect from those in Argyleshire. In the low country the breed is greatly improved of late years, both in size and value.

Sheep.—The Tweeddale breed have been long introduced here; and many of the hills and heathy pastures are occupied as sheep-walks. A few of the small white-faced sort are also kept by the poorer tenants. Glasgow is the great market on which the store farmers of Argyle and Dumbarton depend for the sale of their fat sheep.

RENFREW.

Situation and Extent.—This small county is bounded on the west and north by the frith of Clyde, on the east by Lanarkshire, and on the south

south by Ayr. Its length from north-east to south-west is 27 miles, and its breadth about thirteen.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The south-west side of this county is in general hilly, or rather mountainous; the remainder exhibits in many places a pleasing variety of hill and dale, and the hills being for the most part covered with grass, enliven the scene, and afford at the same time rich and valuable pasturage.

The soil of the low lands is in general light, and rather inclining to sandy; towards the bottoms of the hills the soil is a strong loam, not unfrequently on a bed of till, and towards the summits of the hills it becomes lighter, and commonly blended more or less with moss.

All the different kinds of grain and green crops which are common in the island are cultivated in this district. A great proportion of the most fertile lands are however occupied as grazing and dairy farms, the produce of which, viz. milk, butter, cheese, fat cattle, sheep, &c. are disposed of to advantage at the manufacturing towns in the county, and at Glasgow, which is also in the vicinity.

Forests and Woodlands.—The coppice woods and plantations, though numerous, are nowhere very extensive. Considerable additions have been made to the latter within these few years; and considering the additional demand for timber,

ber, which must necessarily happen in a country where manufactures and commerce are increasing so rapidly, there is little doubt but the spirit for planting will still more extend itself.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Renfrew, though the county town, when compared with several others in the district, is a place of little note. Greenock and Port-Glasgow may properly be called the sea-ports of Glasgow. From these places, a very extensive foreign commerce and coasting trade are carried on, though principally by the Glasgow merchants. Paisley has been long famous for its manufactures of silk and thread gauze, which are brought to the highest degree of perfection. Large cotton-works are also established there, and at several villages in the neighbourhood.

Live Stock, Horses.—There are not many horses bred in the district. The farmers in general rather consider it for their interest to purchase young horses from the neighbouring counties, and after working them for a year or two, sell them for a considerable profit at the Glasgow fairs. The price from L. 20 to L. 30 each.

Black Cattle.—For the reason already mentioned, namely, the number of manufacturing towns situated in the district, the dairy and grazing husbandry are become more objects of the farmer's attention than the breeding or rearing of cattle. They keep up their stock, by purchasing

chasing from the parish of Dunlop in Ayrshire, which is conterminous with this county, and in which the cows are remarkable for the quantity and excellent quality of their milk. In the hilly and moorish grounds, numbers of young cattle are however reared.

Sheep. — From the preceding description of this county, it will appear, that, owing to its local situation in regard to markets, there is only a small portion of land that can be appropriated with advantage to sheep-husbandry. There are however many small flocks of the Tweeddale breed in the mountainous part of the district.

ISLANDS OF BUTE AND ARRAN.

Situation and Extent. — These islands, which form part of the Hebrides, are situated in the frith of Clyde, and, together with some smaller isles, make one of the counties of Scotland, known by the name of Bute.

The island of Bute is about seventeen miles in length, and its extreme breadth is about five. Arran is about twenty-four miles from north to south, and in some places twelve in breadth.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation. — The surface of the island of Arran is extremely rocky, barren and mountainous; the soil either clay and strong loam, or light and gravelly, in some places mixed with moss. Agriculture is at a

very low ebb in this island, the lands scarcely yielding two returns of the seed sown, and consequently the situation of the tenants by no means favourable.

The crops cultivated are oats, barley or big ; but potatoes, and various kinds of fish which are caught on the coast, are the principal food of the inhabitants.

The island of Bute exhibits a more pleasant appearance, being less mountainous than Arran, and the lands for the most part inclosed and well cultivated. The soil is in general light and fertile, extremely well adapted for turnip husbandry, which has been generally introduced on all the larger farms.

Forests and Woodlands.— There are several plantations on the island of Bute ; and around the castle of the proprietor, the Earl of Bute, there is a considerable quantity of valuable timber. On the island of Arran there are also some plantations belonging to the Duke of Hamilton, who is the principal proprietor.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Rothsay, in the island of Bute, is the capital of the county, and gives the title of Duke to the heir-apparent of the Crown. It has a good harbour, which is much frequented by the herring-fishing vessels. There is a cotton spinning machine erected, which gives employment to a number of hands ; and a considerable manufacture

facture of herring-nets is also carried on in these islands. Some barley and oats are exported to Ayrshire; but it is on the export of black cattle, of which several hundreds are annually sent to the main land, and the herring-fishery, that the farmers chiefly depend for the payment of their rents, and the purchase of such articles as they are obliged to import.

Live Stock, Horses.—The breed of horses in these islands is much the same as in Argyleshire, from whence numbers are annually imported.

Black Cattle.—The black cattle are of a small size, such as are common in the other islands on the north-west of Scotland. The average selling price is about L. 2, 10 s. each.

Sheep.—The breed is generally of the Tweeddale sort, numbers being imported from Ayrshire after severe winters, by which the stock on these islands is often much diminished.

A Y R.

Situation and Extent.—This county, which is one of the most pleasant and fertile in Scotland, is bounded, on the north and west, by Renfrew and the frith of Clyde; on the east, by Lanark and Dumfries; and on the south, by Kirkcudbright and Wigton. It exhibits the form of two wings stretching towards the north-west and south-west, including a large bay on the frith of Clyde.

Clyde. Between its extreme points it measures upwards of fifty miles in a straight line ; its greatest breadth is about thirty.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The south and south-east divisions are rather mountainous, forming part of a range of hills which extend across the south of Scotland from the Irish sea to the German ocean.

The remainder, though containing many hills, some of which are of considerable altitude, may be denominated a fertile well cultivated district. The hills are stocked with numerous flocks of sheep and herds of cattle, and the cultivated parts of the county abound with corn and grass.

The soil is in general clay ; but along the coast it is a light friable loam : Both are very productive. The culture of wheat or turnips is by no means general. Oats, barley or big, pease, beans and potatoes, are the ordinary crops. The north part of the district has been long celebrated as the best dairy county in Scotland, and specially noted for the quality of its cheese.

Forests and Woodlands.—There are no forests in this county which deserve the name. There are indeed here, as well as in many other counties on the western coast of Scotland, several tracts of coppice or natural oak, and birch ; but as they are cut down every 20 or 25 years, their value as wood must be comparatively small. Numerous plantations, however, now begin to

rear

rear their heads in various parts. And as the number is annually increasing, the period cannot be far distant, when the importation of foreign timber will be less an object with the merchant than it is at present.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Besides Ayr, which is the head borough of the county, there are several other towns and villages. The most considerable of these is Kilmarnock, where manufactures of various kinds are carried on, to the extent of L. 87,000 yearly; the principal of which are carpets, shoes, tanned leather, and printed cottons. A number of ships are constantly employed in exporting coals from different parts of the coast to Ireland.

Grain is imported in considerable quantities along the coast; but as many thousand quarters are annually carried over land to the large manufacturing towns in the neighbourhood, there is little reason to doubt but the grain annually raised in the county, is sufficient for the consumption of the inhabitants.

Live Stock, Horses.—There are a great many more horses raised than are necessary for carrying on the different operations of agriculture, manufactures, and commerce in the district. The breed, in point of shape, size and value, are fully equal to those found in any other part of Scotland. From this and some of the neighbouring counties, the farmers on the east coast are principally

principally supplied. The prices are in general from L. 25 to L. 30, though more is sometimes received.

Black Cattle.—On the confines of the county of Wigton or Galloway, the breed of cattle are similar to what prevails in that district. In the north part of the county, particularly about the parish of Dunlop, the cattle are of a larger size, and the cows remarkable for yielding large quantities of excellent rich milk. In this parish, it is not uncommon for a cow to give from 24 to 30 English quarts of milk in the day. Cows sell from L. 8 to L. 12. From this county great numbers of cattle are annually sent to England. They are in high repute in many counties of that kingdom. The selling price is generally from L. 5 to L. 6 on an average.

Sheep.—Various breeds of sheep from England have been introduced here, but that which most generally prevails is the black-faced Tweeddale sort.

WIGTON OR GALLOWAY.

Situation and Extent.—The county of Wigton or West Galloway, as it is sometimes called, is bounded on the north, by Ayr; on the east, by Kirkcudbright; and on the south and west, by the Irish Channel. It stretches into the sea, in
the

the form of a peninsula. Its form is very irregular. The greatest length of this county in any direction, does not exceed 30 miles; nor is there any part of it more than 12 miles distant from the sea.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—This county exhibits a variety of surface; towards the coasts it is level, and interspersed with several small eminencies. As the county retires from the shore, it becomes more hilly, and towards the north, where it joins the county of Ayr, it is very mountainous. This last division is commonly called the moors of Galloway, and is in general devoted to the pasturage of sheep, with which it abounds. The soils are either clay, loam or gravel, all of which are extremely well adapted for producing luxuriant crops of the finest grass, and, when well cultivated, good crops of grain. But improvements in the art of cultivation, and the modes of cropping have been but very partially introduced into this and the adjoining district of Kirkcudbright. Oats, with some bear or barley, and potatoes, are the crops on which the farmers chiefly depend. The breeding and raising of black cattle and horses, are the principal objects to which their attention is directed, and in which they have no doubt been very successful.

Forests and Woodlands.—This county is in a great measure destitute of wood. There are several

veral coppice woods, which are cut down every 20 or 30 years, and a good many plantations of young trees; but the stock of timber is very inadequate to the demand, and considerable sums are annually sent out of the county, for the purchase of that necessary article.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—The manufactures and commerce of this district are very considerable. Several cargoes of grain are indeed annually exported; and at Port-Patrick, from whence the packet-boats sail to Donaghadee in Ireland, upwards of 11,000 black cattle, and about 2000 horses, were imported annually for six years, from 1786 to 1790, inclusive.

Live Stock, Horses.—The horses are of a small size, strong, high spirited, hardy, capable of enduring fatigue, and are very easily maintained. Their character is well known in most of the English counties under the name of Scotch Gallows; they sell, when five or six years old, from L. 12 to L. 18 and L. 20 each.

Black Cattle.—This county has been long renowned for its breed of cattle. They are commonly poll'd, or without horns, of the larger size of Scots cattle, weighing when fat from 40 to 50 stone Amsterdam, finely proportioned, and remarkably disposed to fatten. Many thousands are annually sent from this district to England. The usual price is from L. 6 to L. 7
for

for three and four year old oxen. The cows are not remarkable for giving a great quantity of milk; from 12 to 16 English quarts may be the general average.

Sheep.—Of these there are properly two different breeds: The black-faced or Tweeddale, which occupy a great part of the mountainous district; and a small white-faced sort common in the lower part of the country. The last is accounted valuable, principally on account of the quality of wool, which may very probably be soon further improved in consequence of the introduction of some Spanish and Shetland tups that have been lately sent into the neighbouring county. Great numbers of sheep, as well as horses and black cattle, are sent from this district to England. The former are for the most part sold in the northern counties of Cumberland and Westmoreland.

KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Situation and Extent.—This county, or rather stewartry, together with the county of Wigton, formed what was anciently called the province of Galloway. Kirkcudbright is bounded on the west by Wigton, on the north by Ayr, on the east by Dumfries, and on the south by the

Solway frith. Its extent from north to south is nearly thirty miles; from east to west about forty-five.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The face of the country has a mountainous, rugged and gloomy aspect, exhibiting, on a general view, the appearance of one continued heath; but on a closer inspection, it is found to contain, particularly towards the south, many extensive vallies and fertile plains, which produce good crops of grain, and pasture of so excellent a quality as scarcely to be excelled in any part of Britain.

The mountains, besides yielding food for numerous flocks of sheep, are valuable on account of the lead-mines with which they abound. These not only afford employment to a number of labouring people, but also bring in considerable annual revenues to the proprietors.

Forests and Woodlands.—There are many considerable tracts of coppice-oak along the banks of the different rivers and streams; but the value of these chiefly depends on the price at which the bark is disposed. The plantations are more numerous here than in the west part of Galloway; but they have not hitherto arrived at such age or size, as to be of much service in regard to the furnishing a supply of timber, either for building farm-houses, or constructing implements of husbandry.

Towns,

Towns, Manufactures and Commerce.—Kirkcudbright is the head borough of the stewartry, but there are little manufactures or commerce either there, or in any other town in this district. The chief exports are grain and oatmeal. Of the former about 4000 quarters, and of the latter about 700 tons, appear to have been shipped annually for several years.

Live Stock.—The live stock in this stewartry being exactly similar to that mentioned in the preceding account of Wigton, a particular description is unnecessary.

As a very curious account of the probable means by which the black-faced breed of sheep was first introduced, or became common in the south of Scotland, is given in the Statistical Account of the parish of Urr in this stewartry, it is here subjoined.—“ Here it may be proper to “ observe, that in the reign of James VI. Galloway was understood to produce the finest “ wool in Scotland, perhaps in Britain. William Lithgow says, he has seen finer wool in “ Galloway than ever he saw in Spain. Even “ to this day, in some particular farms, the “ wool is remarkably fine, and of a brilliant “ whiteness. The sheep from which this wool “ is cut, are white-faced, rather small, and in all “ respects seem very much to resemble the sheep “ of the Shetland isles. Finding that the white- “ faced sheep, with fine wool, had once been “ the

“ the common flock of every farm in Gallo-
“ way, it becomes a question, *Whence the black-*
“ *faced sheep, whose wool is scarce worth cutting,*
“ *were imported?* But no investigation or en-
“ quiry upon this subject, was attended with
“ any satisfaction. It may be observed, that
“ Galloway, in its uncultivated state, abounded
“ with goats, which in moorish and mossy tracts,
“ are almost uniformly of a black colour. Now,
“ that the goat and the sheep easily, nay com-
“ monly breed together, is undeniable; and
“ that the *mules* so produced are as fruitful as
“ either the separate breed of goats or of sheep,
“ is a fact that cannot be disputed. In every
“ farm in the wilder parts of Galloway, at this
“ day, where the flocks of goats and sheep are
“ kept at no great distance from one another,
“ every spring we see, among the sheep espe-
“ cially, several mongrels, which are just carried
“ on with the flock of lambs to which they be-
“ long. Now, the goat, in the wild and uncul-
“ tivated parts of the country, is an animal of
“ much larger bone and far hardier than the
“ sheep. About the time therefore that James VI.
“ left Scotland, and when the manufactures,
“ commerce and agriculture of that kingdom
“ began to decline, it is highly probable, that
“ the black-faced breed of sheep (that is the
“ mongrels above mentioned) might be encou-
“ raged, so as to stock the greater part of the
“ farms

“ farms calculated for sheep. Woollen manu-
“ factures having scarcely any existence in Scot-
“ land, and the English being hardly able to
“ work their own wool, the only objects that
“ could interest a Scotch farmer as to sheep,
“ were the ease with which they could be pre-
“ served, the flavour of their flesh, and the
“ weight of their carcases. In all these respects,
“ the mongrels, bred betwixt the sheep and
“ the goat, are superior, especially to the small
“ white-faced sheep already mentioned, the
“ wool of which was of such uncommon fine-
“ ness. The mongrels are constantly black-
“ faced, and in their form differ very little from
“ the sheep thus distinguished. Two or three
“ removes might indeed produce all the distinc-
“ tion that obtains *.”

DUMFRIES.

Situation and Extent.—Dumfriesshire is bound-
ed on the west by Kirkcudbright and Ayr ; on
the south, by the Solway frith ; on the east, by
Selkirk and Roxburgh ; and on the north, by
Peebles and Lanark. Its greatest length is a-
bout sixty miles, and its greatest breadth nearly
thirty.

Surface,

* See Statistical Account, vol. ii. p. 66.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—This county, particularly the north-west division, from being incumbered with many rugged and lofty mountains, has, on a general survey, a very bare and barren aspect. There are notwithstanding few districts of the same extent in Scotland, where there are more numerous and extensive vallies, (or dales, as they are here called), which being fertilized by the many rivers and streams that run in all directions, are valuable for tillage as well as grass husbandry. From the moistness of the climate they are peculiarly well adapted to the last.

The soil in the bottom of the vallies, and in the plains along the shore of the Solway frith, is either clay or deep loam of a good quality. On the eminences adjoining to these, it is light, and in some places mixed with gravel. Towards the bottoms of the hills it is a strong clay loam on a till bottom, which is very retentive of water. Higher up it gradually becomes light, soft and spongy, containing for the most part a certain proportion of moss. These soils are upon the whole productive; great quantities of grain and potatoes being annually exported from this district to Liverpool, Whitehaven and the frith of Clyde. All kinds of crops are cultivated, but wheat and turnips only in some particular parts of the district.

Forests

Forests and Woodlands.—There are natural woods of oak, ash, birch, alder, &c. scattered along the banks of all the principal rivers, and several of the streams and brooks, and many plantations, (some of them of considerable extent), are to be seen in different parts of the county. These, while they tend to ornament the country, must, under proper management, prove highly beneficial to the proprietors.

Towns, Manufactures and Commerce.—Dumfries is the most considerable town, but possesses little foreign-commerce. The imports are chiefly from the Baltic. The export of grain, coal, &c. afford employment for a good many coasting vessels. The manufactures of the county are very trifling, and have little or no effect on its agriculture. A great many hands are indeed employed in working some lead-mines, and lead, after being smelted in the neighbourhood of the mines, is annually exported in large quantities.

Live Stock, Horses.—Many horses are bred in this county. These are of the large size, such as are commonly purchased by the farmers on the east coast.

Black Cattle.—A great proportion is of the Galloway breed. Several thousands are annually purchased in this county, and driven into England. A few of the wild cattle which formerly inhabited the forests of this kingdom, are
said

said still to be seen in a park belonging to the Duke of Queensberry.

Sheep.—The breeds of sheep in this county are the black-faced, which occupy the northern and more mountainous part of the country; and the Cheviot sort, which abounds in the southern division. Both kinds find a ready sale in the counties of York, Lancaster, Westmoreland, Cumberland and Northumberland. Trials have been made to introduce the Cheviot breed into the higher and more exposed mountains, but hitherto with so little success as probably to deter others from making similar attempts; so long at least as such a proportion of the English graziers give a preference to the Tweeddale breed.

ROXBURGH.

Situation and Extent.—This district is bounded on the west by Selkirk and Dumfries; on the east and south, by Cumberland and Northumberland; and on the north, by Berwick. It is nearly forty miles in length, and its extreme breadth about thirty.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The county of Roxburgh is very irregular in its surface, being in many places hilly, and in some mountainous.

mountainous. Towards the middle of the county, where the Teviot holds its course through almost the whole extent from west to east, it is pleasantly diversified, fertile and well cultivated.

The hills and mountains, particularly that range of the Cheviot hills situated in this county, from being for the most part clothed with verdure, and producing pasture for numerous flocks of sheep, rather embellish than deform the prospect.

On each side of the Teviot, and on the banks of the other rivers which empty themselves into it in its progress eastward, the soil is a fertile loam. More distant from the rivers, it becomes of a lighter quality, and is frequently mixed with gravel and small stones.

As a proof of the excellence of these soils, as well as of the climate, it may be mentioned, that a few years ago, when the culture of tobacco became pretty common in this part of Scotland, one farmer sold between twelve and thirteen acres of that crop on the ground for upwards of L. 300*.

Forests

* An act of Parliament being about that time passed prohibiting the growth of tobacco in Great Britain, the farmer was obliged to give up this crop to the officers of Excise for about L. 104, which he was allowed by the act above alluded to, being at the rate of 4 per cent.

Forests and Woodlands.—Adjoining to the banks of the rivers, and in other parts of the country, are remains of forests of natural oak, ash, birch, &c. also numerous plantations of considerable extent, and some of them of such an age that the trees are fit for sawing into plank and converting into many useful purposes.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Jedburgh is the chief town, at which the courts are held. Owing to its inland situation, this county has no commerce, and but few manufactures are carried on to any great extent: linens, carpets, and dressed sheep and lamb skins, are however exported to a considerable amount. Large quantities of oat-meal are sent over land from this county, to Lanark, Glasgow, and other towns.

Live Stock, Horses.—There are very few horses reared in this district beyond what is necessary to keep up the stock. They are of the strong draught breed.

Black Cattle.—The black cattle in the cultivated part of this county have been much improved of late years, both by purchasing bulls of a large size from England, and by the general introduction of turnip husbandry. They are equal in size to those in Berwickshire, and larger than the ordinary run of cattle in any other county on the north side of the Tweed.

Sheep.

Sheep.—The Cheviot sheep are the most numerous. They are here called the long white-faced, in contradistinction to the short black-faced, or Tweeddale sort. The Cheviot breed is longer and thinner in the body than the other. The wool is superior in quality to that of the Tweeddale breed, but in regard to weight of carcase, both are much upon a par.

In the low part of the country, the Bakewell, Culley, and other English breeds, have been introduced, and, from the attention bestowed, there is no doubt but they will turn out profitable.

P E E B L E S.

Situation and Extent.—This county (which is generally called Tweeddale) is bounded on the west by Lanark ; on the north, by Mid Lothian ; on the east, by Selkirk ; and on the south, by Dumfries. Its greatest length from north to south is nearly thirty miles, and its breadth about eighteen.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The general appearance of this county is rather unfavourable. It comprehends many rugged and heathy mountains, of which Tweedsmoor on the southern boundary, and Minchmoor towards the

the east, are the most considerable. The soils are various, but such as are to be met with in every country which, like this, is diversified with hill and dale, *viz.* either clay or strong loam, towards the bottom of the vallies and along the banks of the rivers. On the declivities of the hills, a light soil most generally prevails. The highlands of this district are very subject to what are here called harvest frosts. These generally happen about the end of August, and, by checking the vegetative powers, often damage, and frequently entirely ruin the crops. Oats are cultivated to a much greater extent than any other kind of grain. Wheat is frequently sown on the rich low lands, and turnip husbandry is generally understood.

Forests and Woodlands.—There are no forests or coppice woods properly speaking in the district, and very few plantations of any extent. That this should be the case in a country so remote from the sea coasts must appear surprising, when the expence attending the land carriage of timber is considered.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Peebles is the county-town, where some manufactures, as woollens, linens, cottons, carpets, &c. are carried on. In other parts of the county there are similar manufactures, but none of them on a large scale.

Live Stock, Horses.—The breed of horses and black cattle differs so little from those in the

adjoining counties, and such a small proportion of either is reared beyond what is necessary for keeping up the stock, that it appears unnecessary to enter into a description of either.

Sheep.—On this species of stock, the Tweeddale farmers chiefly depend for the maintenance of their families and the payment of their rents.

The Tweeddale breed of sheep has now found its way into the remotest parts of Scotland; and in every county on the west side of the island, from Caithness to Lancashire, numbers of this sort are to be seen. They are compact in the body, short legged, black in the face and legs, and in general have horns; weighing, when fat, from 10 to 12 and 14 lb. *per* quarter. Their wool is coarse and shaggy, of little value compared with the wool of almost any other breed in Britain. They are, however, very hardy animals, and perhaps better adapted for enduring the hardships inseparable from a northern climate and a mountainous country, than any other breed in the kingdom. That there are many situations from which they ought to be removed, in order to make room for the finer woolled breed of the Cheviot hills, will be readily admitted: But the experimental farmer will probably find himself greatly mistaken, if he persuades himself, that in every situation in the Highlands of Scotland the finer woolled breeds will succeed.

LANARK.

Situation and Extent.—Lanarkshire is bounded by the counties of Peebles, Edinburgh, Linlithgow and Stirling, on the east; by Dumbarton on the north; by Ayr and Renfrew on the west; and by Dumfries on the south. Its greatest extent from north to south is about fifty miles, from east to west about thirty.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—This district, except along the windings of the river Clyde, has a very barren, wild and naked appearance, containing numerous large hills and mountains, covered with heath, or broken fragments of rock, and in many places destitute of herbage. The sterility which appears on the surface is, however, in some degree compensated by the inexhaustible mines of lead, iron, stone, and coal, that are found below. These not only give employment to many thousands of the inhabitants, but also bring in very considerable revenues to the proprietors.

From the preceding account, it may be inferred, that the greatest proportion of this county is devoted to pasturage. The prevailing soils of the arable lands are clay and loam of various qualities; but owing to the moistness of the climate, the crops of grain are often rendered precarious,

precarious, and a great proportion of the level ground along the Clyde is also subject to frequent inundations. Turnip husbandry has been common for several years. Wheat is cultivated in the lower part of the district, but not to any great extent. Two thirds of the tillage lands are generally sown with oats.

Forests and Woodlands. — There is scarcely wood of any kind in this district, except in the vallies along the banks of the Clyde. There tracts of coppice, oak and birch, and plantations of forest-trees, enliven the prospect. But what renders this district most remarkable in regard to trees, is the numerous and extensive orchards with which it abounds. The fruit, consisting of apples and pears, is sold in the adjoining counties, and in favourable seasons produce considerable sums.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce. — Glasgow, which is justly reckoned the emporium of Scotland, is situated in this county. Besides the extensive foreign trade which Glasgow has long enjoyed, manufactures of various kinds, as cottons, linens, woollen stuffs, shoes, pottery, glass, &c. have been established there on a scale far more extensive than in any other part of Scotland. From the immense additional number of hands necessarily employed in these manufactures, people have been induced (from the high wages which they receive) to move from all

all corners to Glasgow, or its immediate neighbourhood, and therefore the agricultural produce of the county, either of grain or cattle, is by no means equal to the supply of the inhabitants.

Live Stock, Horses.—Lanarkshire has been long celebrated for its breed of horses. A great many more are annually reared than are necessary to keep up the stock in the district. These are generally purchased by dealers in the country, who carry them to the great fairs at Glasgow and Rutherglen, where they are purchased by people from different parts of Great Britain. They sell at from L. 50 to L. 60 a pair.

Black Cattle.—This district is more remarkable for its breed of horses than of black cattle. The last, however, is in general handsome, and well proportioned, although small, weighing only when fat, from 20 to 30 stone Amsterdam. In the neighbourhood of Glasgow, where milk is a very valuable article, the cows are of a larger size, and are reckoned good milchers.

Sheep.—The mountains in this county afford pasturage for great numbers of the black-faced or Tweedale sheep, which are either fattened in the inclosures in the more improved districts, for the supply of the Glasgow and Edinburgh markets, or sold into the north of England, from whence there is a considerable demand.

SELKIRK.

SELKIRK.

Situation and Extent.—This county, sometimes called Etrick Forest, is bounded on the north by Peebles; on the south and east by Roxburgh; and on the west by Dumfries. Its form is irregular; from north to south it measures about 20 miles; from east to west it is little more than half that extent.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The surface may rather be denominated hilly than mountainous; there is indeed but a small proportion of this county arable, but no part of it exhibits that wild and rugged appearance, which characterises many of the northern and western districts of Scotland. Numerous flocks of sheep are scattered over all the hills, which afford excellent pasturage, and, in general, in great abundance.

Where the plough has been introduced, the soil is chiefly loam or clay, differing much in quality, but capable under proper management of producing good crops. Oats are here, as in almost every other part of Scotland, cultivated to a greater extent than any other kind of grain. Turnips are a common crop on all the well cultivated farms. Wheat, owing to the fogginess and moistness of the climate, is but very rarely sown.

Forests and Woodlands.—This district, once an immense forest, was principally appropriated to the pasturage of red and fallow deer; but these, as well as the ancient and venerable trees with which this forest was ornamented, have long since disappeared.

The plantations are neither numerous nor extensive; but by the Statistical Account of several of the parishes, it appears that a disposition to beautify and improve the county by planting, has begun to shew itself among the proprietors, which, if persevered in, must be attended with the happiest effects.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Selkirk is the only royal burgh in the county. It is (from its inland situation) a place of little trade. Gallashiels, in consequence of a manufacture of coarse woollen cloth, which is carried on to a considerable extent, has become a village of some note. Large quantities of grain and oat-meal are sent from different corners of this district over land to the markets of Edinburgh, Dalkeith and Peebles.

Live Stock, Horses.—In this district, improvements in the breed of horses is a branch of rural economy, which has scarcely hitherto attracted the attention of the farmers. The horses are of the middle size, active and well adapted for a hilly country. They measure about 14 hands high,

high, and sell at from L. 16 to L. 18, and sometimes L. 20.

Black Cattle.—The cattle bred in the hilly grounds are of a small size; but in the low parts of the county, where the turnip-husbandry has been introduced, the breed of cattle has been much improved.

Sheep.—The original breed of this district is the same with that in the adjoining county of Peebles. The breed from the Cheviot hills has long since been introduced, and now occupy a considerable portion of the whole sheep-pasture in the district.

ENGLAND and WALES.

England, including Wales, forms the largest and southern division of the united kingdoms of Great Britain. It is bounded on all sides by the sea, except on the north, where it joins Scotland. Its form is triangular, having one point to the north, another to the east, and the third to the west. Its length, from Berwick to the Land's End in Cornwall, is upwards of 400 miles; its extreme breadth, from Dover in Kent to Senan in Cornwall, is about 360.

The

The surface of England at large, affords all that beautiful variety of prospect, which is to be found in any other kingdom. Here are to be seen extensive fertile plains covered with herds of cattle, and watered by numerous rivers, which flow in all directions : There gently rising hills, and bending vales, fruitful in corn, and adorned with stately timber. In some places, lofty mountains, craggy rocks, and tumbling torrents, add grandeur to the scene ; while in others, barren moors, and wide uncultivated heaths, form a striking contrast to the more delightful landscapes of rural opulence and beauty.

That part of England which is generally known by the denomination of the midland counties, together with those counties which lie on the south-east coast, are more level and fertile, and cultivated to a greater extent than the other parts of the kingdom. The northern hills, together with the Alpine mountains of Westmoreland, Wales and Cornwall, will for ever bid defiance to the operations of the plough. These, however, form but a small proportion of the whole ; for Campbell, in his Political Survey, states, that England and Wales contain 31,648,000 acres ; and by the newspapers account formerly referred to, it appears that only 7,888,777 acres, or about one-fourth of the whole, are waste or uncultivated ; a smaller proportion, considering the extent,

extent, than is probably to be found in any other kingdom in Europe.

The nature of this work does not permit a particular description of the names, sources, and various windings of the rivers. It may nevertheless be observed, that they are numerous, and contribute in no small degree to the fertility and richness of the kingdom. The Thames, the Severn, the Trent, and the Ouse, are the principal rivers, which, by affording naturally the means of inland navigation, tend to promote the interests of agriculture.

Much has been said and written of late years respecting the population of England and Wales, and while some have been at pains to under-rate it, others have appeared equally anxious to give too favourable a statement. This is indeed a question which must ever remain in much darkness and obscurity, till some such plan as that which has been adopted in Scotland takes place in this part of the united kingdoms; for, without an actual enumeration, every other attempt to ascertain the number of inhabitants in any country, must be merely hypothetical.

In Dr Davenant's Essay on the balance of trade, published in 1699, he mentions, that a Mr Gregory King, whom he celebrates for his ingenuity, had furnished him with an account

of

of the number of people in England at the periods under mentioned.

	Inhabitants.
I. When Julius Cæsar first invaded it,	360,000
II. At the incarnation of our Saviour,	400,000
III. At the Norman conquest,	2,000,000
IV. In 1260,	2,750,000
V. In 1685,	5,500,000

Whatever share of ingenuity Mr King may have been possessed of, it is evident that the above statements, like every one that has hitherto appeared, or is likely soon to appear, respecting the population of England, must be in a great measure, if not entirely, conjectural: Therefore, without entering into a minute detail of the various opinions of the late writers on this subject, (many of whom differ very materially from each other), it shall only be observed, that by the reports made to the Bishops of the population of their respective dioceses so long ago as the year 1676, the total was near six millions; and it is worthy of remark, that if the inhabitants had then amounted exactly to six millions, and if population had *only* increased from that period to the present time (say 119 years), in the same proportion, as it is already pretty correctly ascertained, it has done in Scotland for these last 40 years, the increase would be 1,586,653, which, added to six millions, would make the total amount

mount 7,586,653. But the probability is, that it is much more extensive*.

It might justly be deemed improper to enter here into a history of the remote period, when the civil policy of the State judged it expedient to divide these kingdoms into counties or shires. It appears necessary only to remark, that there are at present 40 counties in England, and 12 in Wales. These together return 92 members to Parliament, which, added to 421, returnable by the cities, universities, boroughs, and cinque ports, make the whole representatives for England and Wales amount to 513.

In the following endeavour to convey information as to the present state of each county, in regard to its agriculture, manufactures and commerce, the reader will observe, that care has been taken to make such an arrangement, that the chain of connection between one county and another,

* If the account of the cultivated acres in Great Britain, referred to in the preceding part of the Chapter, be correct, a comparison may be drawn between the population of the two kingdoms; for if the 3,569,776 cultivated acres in Scotland afford maintenance to 1,600,000 inhabitants, the 23,759,223 cultivated acres in England and Wales ought (supposing the modes of cultivation to be nearly the same) to support upwards of 10,649,000 people, more especially when it is considered what large supplies of cattle, sheep, &c. are annually sent from Scotland to the English markets.

other, is kept entire throughout the whole, one or two instances excepted, where it was found impossible.

The principality of Wales, although containing 12 counties, will be found described as one district, but in such a manner as it is hoped will enable the reader to form a correct idea of its present state, in respect to the particulars under consideration.

The following is the order in which the different districts are classed :

COUNTIES ON THE COAST.

1. Cumberland.
2. Westmoreland.
3. Lancaster.
4. Chester.
5. Monmouth.
6. Somerset.
7. Devon.
8. Cornwall.
9. Dorset.
10. Hants.
11. Suffex.
12. Kent.
13. Essex.
14. Suffolk.
15. Norfolk.
16. Lincoln.

16. Lincoln.
17. York.
18. Durham.
19. Northumberland.

INLAND COUNTIES.

20. Nottingham.
21. Derby.
22. Stafford.
23. Leicester.
24. Rutland.
25. Northampton.
26. Huntingdon.
27. Cambridge.
28. Bedford.
29. Buckingham.
30. Hertford.
31. Middlesex.
32. Surry.
33. Berks.
34. Wilts.
35. Gloucester.
36. Oxford.
37. Warwick.
38. Worcester.
39. Hereford.
40. Salop.

The Twelve Counties of Wales.

CUMBERLAND.

Situation and Extent.—This county is bounded on the south by Westmoreland and Lancashire; on the west, by the Irish Sea; on the north, by Scotland and the Solway Frith; and on the east, by Northumberland and Durham. Its length from north to south is upwards of 70 miles, and its extreme breadth about 40.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The surface is irregular, exhibiting a beautiful variety of hills and dales, mountains and lakes. The hills and mountains are pastured by numerous flocks of sheep and herds of cattle, part of which are bred in the district; but many more are purchased from Scotland.

The soil in the vales is chiefly clay and loam. In the more elevated parts of the district, peat-earth, or moss, generally on a bed of sand, is most prevalent.

Oats are cultivated to a much greater extent than any other kind of grain: Barley ranks next: But wheat, pease, rye, turnips and artificial grasses are sown only in particular places. A great proportion of the richest pastures is occupied in dairy husbandry. Butter, to the value of L. 30,000 or
L. 40,000,

L. 40,000, is annually exported, and chiefly to the great manufacturing and commercial towns on the south-west coast.

In many of the mountains there is lead, copper, calamine, and *wadd*, or black-lead. The last is found in such abundance in Borrowdale, that the mines are only wrought occasionally, lest this valuable kind of earth should become too common. Coal is found in many places, and in large quantities.

Forests and Woodlands.—This county is by no means well stored with timber; and except in the vales in the interior part of the country, there are scarcely forests or woodlands of any extent. The spirit for planting is, however, introduced; and it is to be hoped, notwithstanding the great extent of sea-coast, a circumstance no doubt unfavourable to the growth of trees, that the exertions of the present proprietors will insure to their successors an ample supply of timber.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Carlisle is the principal town; and, together with Penrith, Cockermouth, &c. possesses some manufactures, as cottons, linens, checks, worsted stockings, &c. but that of cottons is the most considerable. From the sea-ports of Whitehaven, Workington and Maryport, coals, to a very large amount, are exported to Ireland. Whitehaven
also

also enjoys a small share of the West India and Baltic trade.

Live Stock, Horses.—The breed is rather under the middle size of plough horses. And it is probable, that no great improvement will take place in this respect till the cultivation of artificial grasses is more generally introduced.

Black Cattle.—The common breed is the long horned kind; but owing to the coarseness of the pastures, the size is inferior to those of the same species in the southern counties, where richer pastures abound. The Galloway breed has been very generally introduced, and is found from experience to be well adapted to the country. The cows give from 16 to 20, and in some cases 24 quarts of milk in the day.

Sheep.—The ancient breed is small in size, and pretty similar to the black-faced sort, so common on the mountains of Scotland. In the inclosed and better cultivated parts of the district, the larger sized and long-woolled kind has been introduced, but not in any great numbers. There is also a peculiar sort in the mountainous part of Cumberland, called the *Herdwick breed*, which is so remarkably hardy, as (like the sheep on the hills in Scotland) to be able to support themselves in the severest storms and deepest snows, by scratching down to the heath, or other herbage.

WEST-

WESTMORELAND.

Situation and Extent.—This county is bounded on the south by Lancashire and part of Yorkshire; on the west, by Lancashire, the Irish Sea and Cumberland; which last, together with Durham and Yorkshire, bounds it on the north and east. Its form is quadrangular, extending about 40 miles from north to south, and nearly 36 from east to west,

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The surface is uncommonly wild, barren and mountainous, except towards the north-east, where there is an extensive fertile plain. In some of the vales along the sides of the principal lakes and rivers, there are also extensive tracts of cultivated land; but the remainder of the district consists of hills or narrow dales, covered with heath or a coarse kind of pasturage, on which, however, great numbers of cattle and sheep are reared. Small cattle from the northern provinces of Scotland are also purchased in great numbers; and after being kept in the straw-yard during winter, are allowed to pasture on the wastes and commons the following summer, and are either fattened on the richer pastures, or sold
to

to graziers in Lancashire and other southern counties.

The soil is in general a light loam, except on the sides of the hills, where it may be properly denominated moorish, being a composition of peat-earth, sand and gravel.

The crops most commonly cultivated are oats, barley, bear or big, rye and potatoes; but oats in a greater proportion than any other species of crop. Wheat, turnips and artificial grasses are but partially cultivated.

Forests and Woodlands.—Excepting coppices, of which there are considerable tracts, this district may be said to be in a great measure without woodlands; and there is perhaps no county in England where there is less timber. The coppices consist of all the various kinds of underwood common in the kingdom, and are either converted into charcoal for the use of the iron founderies erected in the neighbourhood, or made into hoops, which are exported to Liverpool and other places.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Appleby is the county town, but a place of little trade, being famous only for its corn markets, which are the most considerable in that corner of the country. Besides Appleby, there are seven or eight other towns, but Kendal is the principal; and ever since the reign of Edward III. has been noted for its manufactures of woollens,

hats, thread and worsted stockings. The manufacture of cotton stuffs has also been lately introduced there.

This county derives little benefit from its situation on the coast, the only harbour being that at the small town of Milthorp, from whence large quantities of slate are exported to London, Liverpool, &c. Among the exports may also be reckoned pork and beef hams, and butter, which are annually sent in large quantities to London, and several of the great manufacturing towns on the west coast.

Live Stock, Horses.—From the preceding description of this county, it will readily be supposed, that the horses as well as the cattle are of a small size. The horses generally measure about fourteen hands, are active, and upon the whole well adapted to a hilly country.

Black Cattle.—The black cattle are of the long horned breed, but inferior in size to those in Lancashire. As there are no great towns situated in this county, the principal markets for the cattle reared and pastured here are those in the manufacturing towns in Lancashire, and the west riding of Yorkshire. Graziers from these districts are partial to the Westmoreland breed of cattle, and annually purchase great numbers to stock their pastures.

Sheep.—These are chiefly the original breed of the country, and of the small coarse woolled sort.

fort. Great numbers of the black-faced breed from Scotland are also pastured for a year or two upon the mountains and commons, and many of them are afterwards sold into Lancashire and Yorkshire.

LANCASTER.

Situation and Extent.—Lancashire is bounded on the north by Westmoreland and Cumberland; on the east by Yorkshire; on the west by the Irish Sea; and on the south by Cheshire. Its extreme length is nearly 60 miles, and the extreme breadth, which is towards the south, is nearly 50.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The face of this district is much varied. The north and north-east divisions are in general cold and picturesque, being in many places incumbered with mountains, while the southern and western are for the most part extensive plains, with here and there small hills interspersed, which adds variety and beauty to the scene.

The mountains and hills are chiefly employed in breeding and rearing sheep; and, owing to the very great extent to which trade and manufactures are carried on in this district, a great proportion of the more valuable lands are employed

ployed in grazing, for the purpose of supplying the numerous inhabitants with butcher meat, milk, butter, cheese, &c.

The soil is extremely various, a light loam is most general ; but clay, moss and gravelly soils are also common.

Oats, which are much used as bread-corn by the inhabitants, are sown in greater quantities than any other kind of grain ; wheat, barley, pease, turnips, &c. are but partially cultivated. Lancashire was the first county in the island where potatoes were planted in the fields, and they are still cultivated to a larger extent, and applied to a greater number of useful purposes in this county, than perhaps in any other district of Britain.

There are, besides, many thousand bushels of this valuable root annually exported from Warrington to the Mediterranean.

Forests and Woodlands.—The hundred of Turnefs, (which is divided from the other part of Lancashire by an arm of the sea), abounds with coppice woods. But notwithstanding, there are coppices and young plantations in various other parts ; yet the quantity of trees fit for timber growing at present, except towards the centre of the county, is very inconsiderable. The coppices are cut in regular succession, at from twelve to fifteen years old, and converted into charcoal for the use of the iron-furnaces, of

which there are many in Low Turnefs, or into hoops, which laft are ufually fent to market.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Lancaster is the county-town, and a fea-port, poffeffing fome trade with America and the Weft Indies. Liverpool is not only the moft confiderable fea-port of the county, but alfo of the whole weft coaft of the kingdom. It enjoys an extenfive foreign trade with the coaft of Guinea, the Weft Indies, America, Portugal, Ireland, and the Baltic, which, added to its coafting trade, employs a great number of veffels; nearly 3000 being cleared outwards yearly, and an equal number entered inwards. The exports of falt and coals, particularly the former, are very great.

There is a kind of coal found here, which is unknown in any other part of Europe, it is called canel or candle coal, and admits of being manufactured into candlesticks, fuff-boxes, &c.

The extent to which all kinds of cotton goods are manufactured at Manchester, is aftonifhing. Thefe goods are fent to moft of the markets in Europe and America.

There are befides various other manufactures carried on at Manchester, Warrington, Prefton, and other places in the county, fuch as fail-cloth, hats, glafs, bays, fhalloons, tape, hardware, tobacco pipes, &c.

Large

Large supplies of grain are annually imported from foreign nations, for the use of the inhabitants.

Live Stock, Horses.—In this county there are a number of horses reared; those in the level and more fertile part of the county are large and strong, better adapted for the dray or waggon than for the plough; but in the mountainous and hilly districts they are of a smaller size, hardy, and more easily maintained.

Black Cattle.—The breed of cattle is peculiar to the district; they are long horned, and of a pretty large size. This breed was introduced into several of the counties in Scotland, as Angus, Mearns, Aberdeen, Banff, Moray, &c. some years ago; but experience soon proved, that they were not adapted to that country, as it was with great difficulty they could be fattened, and were therefore universally given up by the intelligent farmers.

Sheep.—This county is by no means famous for its breed of sheep. On the hills and moor lands, a small sort, such as is common in Westmoreland and Cumberland, is kept; but, notwithstanding the excellent markets which such large trading and manufacturing towns must necessarily afford for mutton of the larger size, yet few attempts have hitherto been made to introduce the more valuable breeds.

CHESTER.

CHESTER.

Situation and Extent.—Cheshire, or the county palatine of Chester, is bounded on the west by Denbigh and Flintshire in North Wales; on the south, by Shropshire; on the east, by Derby and Stafford; and on the north, by the Irish Sea, and by the counties of York and Lancaster. The main body of the county is of an oval form, but having two points or horns stretching out towards the north-east and north-west. The extreme length from the one point to the other, is about 50 miles, and its extreme breadth nearly 40.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—This county exhibits a more level surface than any other of the same extent in Great Britain; and, except towards the confines of Derbyshire, where there is a considerable ridge of hills, and on the west, where there is a large tract of high moorish ground called Delamere forest, the whole may be denominated an extensive plain.

In a country so level, it may easily be supposed, that clay and loam are the prevailing soils. Light, gravelly and moorish soils are, however, to be found in many places, though

not

not in so great proportion as the former. The forest, or rather the moor of Delamere, affords pasturage for great numbers of sheep; but the level part of the county is principally occupied in dairy-husbandry; and the quality of the cheese made there is well known, and greatly esteemed in every part of the island. The quantity annually sent to London alone, is said to be upwards of 14,000 tons.

A great proportion of the county, perhaps three-fourths of the whole, is in a state of pasturage or hay meadow, and the remainder in tillage. Oats are much more cultivated than any other kind of grain; wheat, barley, turnips and potatoes are also cultivated, but the two last only partially.

Forests and Woodlands.—The county of Chester, on a general view, has the appearance of being well wooded, which is owing to the great number of hedge-row trees that surround every inclosure; but there are no forests or woodlands of any extent, some young plantations only excepted.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—The city of Chester is the capital of the county. It enjoys some foreign commerce, and a considerable trade with Ireland. The manufactures of this county are cottons, woollens, checks, hats, mohair-buttons, ribbons, &c. but those of cottons are more considerable than all the others.

The

The principal article exported is salt, which is manufactured to such an extent at the salt springs of Namptwick, Middlewick, &c. as to yield an annual clear revenue of salt-duty to Government, of upwards of L. 200,000 a-year.

Live Stock, Horses.—There are but few horses bred in this county. Many are purchased from the neighbouring districts of Derby, Leicester, &c. The breed of horses reared in the county have been improved of late years, in consequence of the attention bestowed by many of the more intelligent farmers on this important object.

Black Cattle.—There are not so many reared in the district as are necessary to keep up the stock, the dairy-farmers considering it more for their interest to fatten and dispose of their calves as soon as possible for veal. Many cows are purchased from other parts of the kingdom; Welsh, Scotch, and Yorkshire cows are sometimes purchased, as well as numbers from the counties immediately adjoining, by which means the breed of black cattle in Cheshire is more mixed and crossed with the breeds of other counties, than perhaps those of any other in the united kingdoms.

Sheep.—It has been already observed, that by far the greater part of this county is occupied in dairy husbandry; and the more valuable breeds of sheep not having been hitherto introduced

duced to any extent on the arable farms, the only kind in the district is the original breed of the country, which for the most part is pastured on the commons and forests, or moor land of Delamere. These sheep are of a small size, weighing when fat only from 10 lb. to 12 lb. *per* quarter. The wool is of a fine quality, but very small in quantity.

MONMOUTH.

Situation and Extent.—Monmouthshire, which was formerly a part of Wales, is bounded on the west by the counties of Brecknock and Glamorgan in South Wales; on the south, by the Bristol Channel, which separates it from Somerset; on the east, by Gloucester; and on the north, by Hereford. Its extreme length is about 28 miles, and its extreme breadth 26.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The surface of this county is remarkably picturesque and agreeable, being diversified with hills and dales, woods and water, corn-fields and meadows, in a manner so various and delightful, as cannot fail to give pleasure to every lover of rural scenery.

The

The prevalent soils are a rich, fertile loam, of a reddish colour, which occupies a large portion of the district. The remainder is for the most part a loam of a lighter texture, in many places mixed with peat earth or moss. The cultivated part of the country produces rich crops of grain and grass; the hills afford not only excellent pasturage for sheep and young cattle, but also abound with valuable mines of coal, lead, iron stone, &c.

Forests and Woodlands.—The county of Monmouth is entitled to the character of being well wooded: Many woods of considerable extent, containing large quantities of excellent oak-timber, are dispersed through various parts of the district. There are also thriving coppices; these are in general cut at the distance of 10 or 12 years, and either converted into charcoal for the use of the iron works, or into hurdles for sheep-folding.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Monmouth, Newport, Abergavenny, Caerleon, Chepstow, and Pontypool, are the principal market-towns; the two former carry on some commerce with Bristol; and the latter (Pontypool) has been long in repute for its extensive manufacture of japanned ware. The other manufactures of the county are flannels, coarse cloths, and woollen stockings; but they have not hitherto been carried on to a great extent, nor have they had

had any perceptible influence on its agriculture.

Live Stock, Horses.—Oxen being very frequently used in the operations of husbandry, little attention has hitherto been bestowed to improve the breed of horses. Many of the most valuable are purchased from other counties, but a desire to improve the native breed has begun to shew itself among several of the proprietors and more intelligent farmers.

Black Cattle.—Of these great numbers are annually bred and reared. In the more fertile districts, the large breed of Herefordshire prevails; and in other parts of the county, the Welsh, particularly the Glamorganshire sort, is most common. The Monmouthshire cattle are much esteemed by the graziers in the neighbouring counties, who purchase them when three or four years old, at high prices.

Sheep.—The native breed is small, and similar to that in Wales, which will be afterwards taken notice of. Other breeds, as those of Dorset, Suffex, and Hereford, have been lately introduced, and there is every reason to believe will succeed.

SOMERSET.

Situation and Extent.—This county is bounded on the north by the Bristol Channel, which separates it from Monmouth, and by the county of Gloucester; on the east, by Wiltshire; on the south, by Dorset; and on the west, by Devon. Its extreme length from north to south is about 45 miles, and the greatest breadth upwards of 60.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The surface of this county exhibits as great a variety as almost any other in the kingdom. In the northern division, are the Mendip hills, an elevated tract, which, however, is rendered valuable on account of their many mines of coal, lead, copper, iron stone, calamine, &c. Towards the middle of the district, meadows, fens and marshes abound, while the southern division, which is much diversified with hill and dale, is in general extremely productive, both in grain and grass.

In the more level parts of the country, the soil is generally a deep rich loam, some of it partaking of the nature of clay.

In the higher grounds, it becomes lighter till at last it terminates in a moorish soil.

The grazing and dairy husbandry is carried on to a considerable extent, and great numbers of fat cattle, sheep, and hogs, together with large quantities of cheese and butter, are annually sent to London and other markets.

Forests and Woodlands.—There is a pretty large extent of woodlands and plantations; but considering the many thousands of waste and unproductive acres, which can only be improved to advantage by means of planting, it is a matter of surprise, that the woodlands and plantations do not occupy much greater space. There was formerly a very extensive forest, that of Exmoor in this county, containing upwards of 20,000 acres. It is, however, now destitute of trees, and entirely employed in the pasturage of a few small horses and sheep, of a very inferior quality.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—The city of Bristol may be reckoned the capital of this as well as of the adjoining county of Gloucester, part of it being situated in each of the two counties; but as the greatest part of this city lies in the last mentioned county, it belongs more properly to it. Wells, Trow, Taunton, Yeovil, &c. have very considerable manufactures of woollen and linen goods, which, added to the mining

mining business, employs a very great number of hands.

The principal sea-ports, besides Bristol, are Bridgewater and Minehead. Bath, which is situated in this county, is probably one of the greatest fashionable resorts in Europe, and has been long celebrated for its hot springs, which are the most remarkable in the island.

Live Stock, Horses.—The breed of horses is in general but very little attended to. The only improvements that have been attempted in this respect are the hiring of stallions from Leicester, and some other northern districts; but this practice has not yet become by any means general.

Black Cattle.—The plowing with oxen being very common in Somerset, the black cattle are of a large size, especially those bred in the more fertile parts of the country. In the dairy districts the short horned sort of cows are most esteemed; and about the Mendip hills the breed of cattle is of a small size, and very much mixed.

Sheep.—Great numbers are bred; but the small native mountain or heath sort is the most abundant. In the low part of the country there is a much larger breed, which weighs, when fat, from 20 lb. to 30 lb. the quarter. The graziers purchase lean sheep from different counties,

ties, for the purpose of fattening for the butcher, but chiefly ewes from Dorsetshire.

DEVON.

Situation and Extent.—This county, the second for extent in England, is bounded on the east by Somerset and Dorsetshires, and by St George's Channel; on the north, by the Bristol Channel, and part of Somersetshire; on the west, by Cornwall; and on the south, by St George's Channel. Its extreme length from south to north is about 70 miles, and its breadth from east to west nearly the same.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The surface is very irregular. In general, there is an agreeable variety of scenery, except towards the west, where the bleak, barren tract called Dartmore forest is situated. The hills and elevated grounds are for the most part devoted to breeding and rearing sheep and young cattle, for which, particularly for rearing young cattle, they are well adapted.

In the numerous extensive vales between the hills, and especially towards the south, the soils are chiefly clay and strong loam, which produce abundant crops of all kinds, among which

are

are to be reckoned apples and pears. These are for the most part converted into cyder and perry, which, beyond supplying the consumpt of the inhabitants, are exported in great quantities to London and other markets.

Forests and Woodlands.—The large tract called Dartmore, which in former times was a royal forest, and which indeed may be reckoned so still, as it has for ages been the property of the heir-apparent to the Crown, is in a great measure without trees. There are now but few remains of ancient forests in any part of this district, some coppices only excepted. Notwithstanding of which, the cultivated parts of the country are at least in appearance well wooded, which is partly owing to the numerous orchards, but more to the hedge-row trees that ornament almost every inclosure.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Exeter is the chief town. It is a place of great foreign commerce, particularly in woollen goods, of which very large quantities are exported to the East Indies, and to almost every kingdom in Europe. Many of the productions of Spain, Italy, Germany, and the Baltic, are also imported. Plymouth and Torbay are situated in this county. They are, next to Portsmouth, the greatest resort of the Royal Navy in time of war. There are also several other sea-ports, and in the interior part of the country, numerous large towns,

towns, in which woollen goods of various kinds are manufactured. The coasting trade consists chiefly in exporting grain, cyder, &c. to London and Bristol, and pipe-clay to Liverpool. The imports are coals, salt, &c.

Live Stock, Horses.—The breed of horses is not remarkable for any peculiar excellence; the farmers attention being more directed to effect improvements in the breeds of black cattle and sheep.

Black Cattle.—The Devonshire cattle are of a large size, and are perhaps superior to any in the kingdom for fattening at an early age.

Sheep.—Of these there are two different breeds. The one, known by name of Devonshire natts, are of a large size, and carry long combing wool. The other, called Exmoor sheep, from being bred on a moor of that name on the borders of Somersetshire, are horned, of rather a small size, but excellent mutton. The new Leicester breed has also been lately introduced.

CORNWAL.

Situation and Extent.—Cornwal, the most southern county of Great Britain, is surrounded on all sides by the sea, except where it joins Devonshire.

vonshire on the east. It is of an angular figure, terminating nearly in a point at the west end. Its extreme length from east to west is above 80 miles, its breadth on the borders of Devon measures upwards of 50 miles.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The county of Cornwall is a very bare, rugged district, with the exception of a few narrow level plains in some places along the coasts, and several vallies along the banks of the different rivers; from which it will be inferred, that but a small portion of the whole is under any regular system of cultivation. Cornwall is however rich in mines, particularly in those of tin, copper, and lead, which are wrought to such extent as to yield an annual gross produce of nearly L. 700,000 a-year.

The soil most prevalent in the vallies and plains, are clay and loam, on the higher grounds it is light and gravelly, on a bed of rock; but improvements in husbandry are here yet in their infancy, the immense treasures of metals which are found in such plenty, having attracted the attention of the inhabitants more than the due cultivation of the soil.

Forests and Woodlands.—This county is so much exposed to the influence of the sea-air, and is in general so elevated, that except in the interior parts of the country it has hitherto been found extremely difficult to rear trees.

There

There were formerly many extensive woods and forests on the banks of the rivers and streams; but the practice which has long prevailed in this and in every other mining district, of smelting the different kinds of ore with charcoal, no doubt induced the owners of these woods to convert them into coppices, many considerable tracts of which are still to be seen.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Launceston is the chief town, but though populous, owing to its inland situation, enjoys little or no trade. Falmouth, in consequence of its being the station for the packets to and from Spain, Portugal, America, and the West Indies, is the most considerable sea-port. There are also several others, such as Penzance, Penryn, St Ives, Fowey, &c. &c. all of which have a great share in the pilchard and other fisheries on the coasts. But upon the whole, their manufactures and foreign commerce is very limited; the exports from the county are tin, copper, lead, slate, pilchards and herrings.

Live Stock, Horses.—Partly owing to the nature of the county, which is mountainous, and partly to the want of roads, almost every article is carried upon pack-saddles on horses backs. The breed of horses is small, and it is to be regretted, that little attention is bestowed to introduce horses of a larger size. Mules are very commonly used, as beasts of burden, being

stronger, and more hardy than the country breed of horses.

Black Cattle.—These are of two sorts; the one, which is chiefly found on the better cultivated farms, is of the Devonshire breed, although considerably smaller in size; the other, which is known by the name of the Cornish cattle, appears to be the original breed of the country; they are small and ill shaped.

Sheep.—The breeds of sheep common here do not differ in any material respect from those in the county of Devon.

DORSETSHIRE.

Situation and Extent.—This county is bounded on the east by Hampshire; on the south, by the English Channel; on the west, by Devon; and, on the north, by Wilts and Somerset. It is extremely irregular in form. Its greatest length from east to west is about 50 miles, and its breadth 36.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The northern division presents a level surface. The middle of the country is occupied by part of that extensive range of chalk-hills or downs, which take their rise in the south-east part of Kent, and stretch west through Sussex, Hampshire,

shire, and this county, and terminate in Devonshire. The southern division along the English Channel is varied with hill and dale, and in general very fertile. The Downs of Dorsetshire are esteemed equal, if not superior to any other in this quarter of the kingdom, for breeding and rearing sheep.

The soil is generally light and chalky, though there are many extensive tracts of fertile clay and loam, which produce grain, grass, hemp, &c. in great plenty and perfection.

This county has been long considered as one of the most pleasant in England, partly on account of the richness of its productions, but perhaps more on account of the mildness of its climate.

Forests and Woodlands.—The northern part of this county was formerly covered with forests, but the only vestige that now remains is some coppice or underwood, and except around the proprietors houses, and in the more cultivated parts, where hedge-row trees abound, this district may be said to be destitute of timber.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Dorchester is the capital; it has little manufactures, but has been long celebrated in many parts of the kingdom, for the quality of its malt-liquor. In Bridport, Beminster, Shaftsbury, Sherborne, &c. there are very extensive manufactures of
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sail-cloth, cordage, worsted stuffs, silks, shirt-buttons, worsted stockings, &c. &c.

In the sea-port town of Poole centres the chief foreign commerce of the country, the other harbours being so choaked up with sand, as to prevent large ships getting in.

The merchants of Poole carry on a considerable trade with America, and several parts of Europe. In this county is situated the Isle of Portland, which affords immense quantities of that fine free stone with which most of the public buildings in London have been erected.

Live Stock, Horses.—The breeds of horses have no particular qualifications for which they ought to be celebrated; there are indeed but few horses bred in the district, nor does it appear that this branch of rural œconomy has hitherto attracted the attention of the intelligent farmer. The average price of a horse fit for the plough or cart, does not exceed L. 18 or L. 20, when four or five years old.

Black Cattle.—The breeds are various, which is generally the case where dairy-husbandry in any degree prevails. The dairy-men preferring a large quantity of milk, to shape, colour or size. The Devonshire breed is the most prevalent. But crosses of the Wiltshire, Oxfordshire, and many other districts, are to be seen in almost every part of the county.

Sheep.

Sheep.—Sheep-husbandry is carried on to a very great extent in Dorsetshire, the ordinary stock of the county being said to amount to 800,000, and nearly one fifth of that number is annually disposed of, and sent to other districts. They are a valuable breed, and have one peculiar property, namely, that they can be brought to lamb at whatever season of the year may be judged most advantageous. It is the Dorsetshire breed of ewes that principally furnish house-lamb for the London market, which is commonly furnished with this luxury by Christmas.

HANTS.

Situation and Extent.—Hants or Hampshire, sometimes called the county of Southampton, is bounded on the east by Surry and Sussex; on the north, by Berks; on the west, by Dorset and Wiltshires; and on the south, by a channel that separates it from the Isle of Wight; which last is included in the county of Hants, although it will be found described separately. This county is about 58 miles in length from north to south, and about 30 from east to west.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—This county is agreeably diversified in its surface; but there

there are no where any hills of great extent or magnitude, except one ridge of chalk-hills or downs, which run across the whole extent. These downs are principally devoted to the pasturage of sheep.

The soil in this district, (as in every other which abounds so much in hill and dale), is very various. In the levels and plains, it is clay or strong loam, becoming lighter as you ascend the eminences, till it terminates in what is generally termed a chalky soil.

The lands under cultivation are for the most part fertile, producing rich crops of all kinds of grain, and in some places hops of a very good quality.

Forests and Woodlands.—There is no county in England, where there are so many or so extensive royal forests as in Hampshire. These have long afforded large supplies of timber for building and repairing the Royal Navy. But from the reports laid before his Majesty, and the two Houses of Parliament, it appears that these, as well as the other royal forests, are falling fast into decay, and that if no greater attention is paid to them in future, Great Britain will have in a great measure to depend on other nations for such timber as is proper for supplying the different dock-yards.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Winchester is the county town. It is a place of little

the trade, and only noted for its corn measures being the legal standard of all England. There are several other towns in the district in which manufactures are carried on to a considerable extent, but the principal are different branches of the woollen manufacture. Portsmouth is well known as the most considerable port for men of war in the kingdom. Many of the largest ships are laid up here in time of peace, and it is the great rendezvous of the Channel fleet in time of war. The store-houses, docks, arsenals, barracks, &c. occupy a great space, and numbers of people are employed in the various operations constantly carrying on. The town of Southampton is a place of some foreign commerce, and enjoys a considerable share of the wine trade, particularly from Jersey and Guernsey.

Live Stock, Horses.—Considerable numbers of horses are bred in Hampshire; those for the plough or team are of a large size, but not remarkable for form or activity. A great many small horses are bred and reared on the forests and commons; but no attention being paid to improve their size or shape, and being much stinted in food, they are comparatively of little value.

Black Cattle.—The black cattle are rather a mixture of the breeds of other districts than one peculiar to Hampshire. Welsh and Alderney breeds have lately been introduced; the latter
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in considerable numbers, particularly into the Isle of Wight, where they are found very profitable, yielding, during the best of the grass season, from nine to ten pounds of butter in the week.

Sheep.—Hampshire is a great breeding country, the average flock being estimated at upwards of 400,000, although now much reduced, in consequence of the extension of cultivation. The original breed is horned, with generally white faces, and have been much improved of late years. But the Suffex, or South-Down sheep, which are reckoned superior, have been sometime introduced, as well as the Dorsetshire.

ISLE OF WIGHT.

Situation and Extent.—This small island measures about 20 miles from east to west, and about 12 from north to south.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—This district is scarcely inferior to the most favoured parts of Great Britain, in regard to beauty and variety of prospects. There is a large ridge of hills which runs across the island, on which are reared great numbers of sheep. The remainder, with few exceptions, is under cultivation, and

is extremely fertile, in so much that it is commonly said one year's crop will serve the inhabitants for seven or eight. The soil is very various, but for the most part strong clay or loam.

Forests and Woodlands.—The island is but thinly stocked with timber, except in the hedge rows. There was an extensive forest around Carisbrook Castle, sometime the prison of its Royal and unfortunate owner Charles I. but it has been allowed to go into decay.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Newport and Cowes are the chief towns; their only trade is supplying the ships with provisions, and exporting the produce of the island. Besides which, pipe-clay, and a fine white sand, used in glass-houses, are exported in very considerable quantities.

Live Stock.—In regard to this article, no particular circumstance occurs to be taken notice of, which is materially different from what is mentioned in the preceding account of Hampshire, when treating on the same subject.

SUSSEX.

Situation and Extent.—Sussex is bounded on the north-east and east, by Kent and Surry; on the south, by the English Channel; and on the west, by Hampshire. Its extreme length from east to west is about 75 miles, and about 28 miles its greatest breadth.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—This district presents in general a level aspect, except one extensive range of hills, which runs parallel to the coast, called the South Downs: These, however, being covered with verdure, afford excellent pasturage for numerous flocks of sheep, and in many places produces excellent crops of grain.

The soil along the coast is rich and fertile, producing abundant crops of grain and grass. Between the South Downs and the confines of Surry, it is for the most part light and gravelly, or chalky; and towards the north-east, which joins the Weald of Kent, clay most generally prevails, though of various qualities, a great proportion being cold and wet, such as is known in some parts of England by the name of Woodland soil. By much the greatest proportion of
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this county is occupied in the cultivation of grain, and in growing timber ; the remainder is either employed as pasturage for sheep and cattle, or is waste, and almost entirely unproductive.

Forests and Woodlands.—The Weald of Sussex was formerly one continued forest, but the trees were in a great measure destroyed in making charcoal for smelting iron, a business which was once carried on here to a great extent. Sussex may, however, still lay claim to the denomination of a well wooded country, there being scarcely any in England which exceeds it in this respect, as, besides supplying timber necessary for carrying on the operations of agriculture, manufactures, and ship-building within the county, large quantities are annually exported from Arundel and other ports to several of his Majesty's dock-yards.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—There are no great cities or manufacturing towns situated in this district ; but the vicinity to the metropolis insures a good market for all the extra produce which can be spared. There are several sea-ports ; but partly owing to the badness of the harbours, and partly to the inhabitants being much engaged in the abominable business of smuggling, little fair trade is carried on in any of them. The most considerable manufacture is that of gun-powder at Battel near Hastings, for which it has been long noted. Bright-helmstone,

helmstone, formerly a small fishing village, has of late risen into consequence among the fashionable world, from the Prince of Wales having made choice of it as a place for sea-bathing.

Live Stock, Horses.—There are not near so many breeds in this district as are necessary to keep up the ordinary stock. Many are purchased young from dealers, who bring them from the midland counties of Leicester, Warwick, Derby, &c.

Black Cattle.—The breeds in this county is generally allowed to be excellent, possessing in an eminent degree many of those points which are considered by judges as essential in the form of a handsome ox. They are disposed to fatten, and at the same time capable of undergoing fatigue, it being a common practice to plow with oxen in this district. The cows are not remarkable for giving a great quantity of milk; but it is rich in quality.

Sheep.—There are several breeds of sheep in Suffex; but the South Down or native breed are the most general. They are speckled in the faces, without horns, and more compact in their form than those of the adjoining counties of Dorset or Hants. This breed is in great request, and is spreading over the eastern and western sides of the kingdom. The breeds of Dorset, Somerset, and Hampshire, are to be found in this

this county ; and in the marshes, the Romney breed from Kent has also been introduced.

KENT.

Situation and Extent.—This county is bounded on the north by the river Thames, which separates it from Essex ; on the east, by the German ocean ; on the south, by Suffex ; and on the west, by Surry. It approaches to an oblong figure. Its greatest extent from east to west is about 60 miles ; from north to south about 38.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The surface is very various. Along the banks of the Thames, from the borders of Surry on the west, it is level, and in some places wet and marshy ; —further inward the country rises into considerable hills, which stretch through the whole extent of the district to Dover in the north-east extremity, excepting towards the county of Suffex, where there is an extensive tract of level country, called the Wealds. The remainder may be described as being agreeably interspersed with hill and dale ; though few of the hills are of such magnitude or elevation as to impede the operations of the plough.

The soil of the level part of the district is clay or strong loam. In the higher grounds there
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are a variety of soils, but that which most generally prevails, is a light loam or gravel on a bed of chalk or rock.

Besides the ordinary agricultural productions common to every other county in the kingdom, Kent furnishes the London market with vast quantities of the finest hops, and also with a great supply of apples, cherries, filberts, pot-herbs and garden-stuffs of all kinds; and on the cliffs of Dover, that hazardous trade of gathering samphire, so emphatically described by Shakespeare, is still continued.

Forests and Woodlands.—Some parts of Kent abound in woodlands, which, besides furnishing timber to the dock-yards situated in the district, are also valuable on account of the bark which they produce, and for supplying wood of all kinds for domestic purposes, and for hop-poles.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—This district is very populous, having a great many towns and villages along the coast, as well as in the inland part of the country. The most considerable is Canterbury, where the assizes are occasionally held. Extensive silk manufactures have been established here ever since the reign of Queen Elizabeth. At Deptford there is a royal dock-yard, where ships of war are built, and at Woolwich an arsenal of ordnance and naval stores, and a foundery for cannon. At Feversham there are several mills for manufacturing

turing gun-powder, but there are few other manufactures; and its trade consists chiefly in supplying the London market with such articles as the country produces.

Live Stock, Horses.—There are many excellent cart-horses bred in this district, particularly in the isles of Shepey and Thanet. They are between fifteen and sixteen hands high, and generally of a black colour. The breed has been considerably improved of late by importing mares from Flanders, and purchasing stallions from the midland counties.

Black Cattle.—Except the Suffex kind, which is common in the Weald of Kent, there is scarcely any distinct breed in the district. Cattle are purchased into the other parts of the country both for grazing and by the dairy-farmers, many of them from the adjoining counties, but chiefly from Wales.

Sheep.—Of these there are two sorts, one the Suffex or South Down, and the other called the Romney marsh breed, which takes its name from an extensive tract of wet marshy land in this county, where they abound. This last sort is of a large size, and carry long fine wool; but as they require the richest pastures to make them fat, they do not thrive in open or exposed situations.

E S S E X.

Situation and Extent.—Essex is bounded on the north by Suffolk and part of Cambridgeshire; on the east, by the German ocean; on the south, by the river Thames; and on the west, by Middlesex and Hertford. Its form is very irregular. It extends from east to west about fifty-eight miles; its extreme breadth fifty.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—Essex, though it may upon the whole be denominated a level country, yet is pretty much varied with hill and dale, particularly towards the north and west.

Along the coast, and on the banks of the Thames, which are wet and marshy, the soil is strong clay and loam. The inland part of the county is in general light loam, except on the higher grounds, where it inclines to gravel. These soils are in general extremely fertile, producing rich crops of all kinds. The quality of the Essex wheat is well known, and stands high in general estimation. A great proportion of this district is devoted to pasturage and dairy husbandry; the method of feeding calves is better understood, and carried on to a greater extent

tent there than in any part of the kingdom, London being in a great measure supplied with veal from this county. Epping forest, situated towards the south-west corner, has long been celebrated for the richness of its butter, which sells at a higher price at London than that from any other quarter of the country.

Saffron Walden in this county is now almost the only place in Great Britain where saffron is cultivated. Coriander, teazel, and carraway, are also cultivated in different parts of Essex.

Forests and Woodlands.—Besides Epping forest, which is now in a great measure destitute of timber, there are a number of woods in different parts of the district. The underwoods are generally cut every twelve or fourteen years, and the timber as occasion requires. Essex having been long an inclosed country, abounds with a great many valuable trees in all the hedge-rows, which, besides proving highly beneficial to the proprietors, and those connected with agriculture at large, adds a beauty to the prospect which nothing but wood can give.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Chelmsford, the county-town, is a place of little trade. Colchester is a considerable town, and has been long noted for its manufacture of baize, which is still carried on there, and in several other towns in the neighbourhood. These goods are generally sent to London, from whence they

are exported to different kingdoms on the Continent. Colchester is also remarkable for the quantity and quality of the oysters found in its neighbourhood, which are sent to London in immense quantities. Harwich is the principal sea-port. It is a place possessing little commerce or connection with the Continent, beyond that of being the station for the packet-boats for Holland.

Live Stock, Horses.—Essex being much more a feeding than a breeding district, it can scarcely be said that there is any species of live stock peculiar to it. Horses are purchased from Suffolk and the other adjoining counties.

Black Cattle.—Welsh, Scotch and Irish cattle are to be seen in almost every corner of the county, as well as numbers from various parts of England. They are purchased in lean, and being fatted, are sold to the butcher in the course of the succeeding year.

Sheep.—The same kind of management prevails in regard to sheep-husbandry. Many are purchased from Hertford, Norfolk, Wilts and Lincoln; but of late the South Down, or Suffolk kind has been introduced, and are likely to become more general.



SUFFOLK.

Situation and Extent.—Suffolk is bounded on the north by Norfolk ; on the east, by the German ocean ; on the south, by Essex ; and on the west, by Cambridge. Its greatest length from east to west is nearly sixty miles ; its extreme breadth about thirty-five.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The surface is in general level, rising in some places into small hills, which however are not of such a height as to render cultivation impracticable. The soil along the sea-coast is for the most part light and sandy, and is remarkable for producing excellent crops of carrots ; and from thence the London market is principally supplied with that article. In the interior part of the country, especially what is called High Suffolk, the most prevailing soil is a strong loam, inclining to clay of a fertile quality, yielding abundant crops of wheat, barley, turnips, clover, &c.

The greatest proportion of this district is occupied in the cultivation of grain, but dairy-husbandry is also carried on to a great extent.

Forests and Woodlands.—There are extensive tracts of woodlands, which are generally cut every

every ten or twelve years. The wood is converted into many useful purposes; it is however principally used in making hurdles for folding sheep. In these woodlands, and in the hedge-rows around the cultivated fields, there is a stock of timber more than sufficient for the consumpt of the county, and great quantities are sent from Ipswich, and other ports, to his Majesty's dock-yards.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Ipswich is the county-town and the principal seaport, but a place of little trade, except in the exportation of malt, grain, timber, and such other articles as the county produces.

The principal manufactures are those of worsted stuffs, chiefly burial crapes, which give employment to a great many of the inhabitants; but the trade, commerce and manufactures of Suffolk are upon the whole inconsiderable.

Besides the articles already mentioned, vast quantities of cheese, butter, poultry, &c. are sent to the London market. This county is also peculiarly famous for the great number of turkeys with which it supplies the metropolis, not less it is said than from 200,000 to 300,000 yearly.

Live Stock, Horses.—The Suffolk punches, as they are commonly called, are in high estimation, and have been long celebrated for their hardiness and compactness of form. They are inferior

inferior in size to the large black horses of Leicester, and the other midland counties, but are equal, if not superior, to any breed in the kingdom, either for the cart or the plough.

Black Cattle.—These are generally known by the name of Suffolk duns, from that being the prevailing colour in this district. The Suffolk cattle differ little, either in shape or size, from those of Galloway in Scotland, and seem rather a variety of that breed than a distinct species. The average weight is from 40 to 50 stone, 14 lb. to the stone. The cows are remarkable for the quantity of milk they give, generally from six to eight gallons in the day during the grass season.

Sheep.—This district, notwithstanding it is famed for its horses and black cattle, can hardly boast of having a breed of sheep peculiar to itself. That of Norfolk is the most prevalent, although the South Down, and other sorts, have been lately introduced.

NORFOLK.

Situation and Extent.—Norfolk, one of the best cultivated counties in Great Britain, is bounded on the west by Lincoln and Cambridge ;
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on the south and south-east, by Suffolk; and on the east and north-east, by the German ocean. It is of an oval form. It measures nearly seventy miles from east to west, and about forty-five from north to south.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The surface is more uniformly level than that of any other county of the same extent in the kingdom; but though there are no hills, yet there are many gentle swells and depressions, which tend in some degree to vary the prospect.

Along the sea-shore the soil is a fertile loam; as the county recedes from the coast, the soil becomes more light and sandy. The western division consists of extensive heaths, which are chiefly devoted to the pasturage of sheep. On the confines of Cambridge and Lincoln shires, there is a considerable tract of fen or marsh land, great part of which is employed in grazing and feeding cattle. This county is particularly celebrated for its turnip-husbandry, that root being more generally cultivated here than in any other district in the kingdom. Norfolk barley is also in very high estimation.

Forests and Woodlands.—This county is ornamented to a considerable degree with woodlands, although no extensive forests are situated in it. Many young plantations, which are scattered throughout different parts of the district, do credit to the public spirit of the planters, and
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in some degree insures a supply of the necessary article of timber to the succeeding generation.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—The city of Norwich is the capital of the county, and has been long famous for its worsted manufactures, which were first introduced by the Flemings in the reign of Edward III. and have been carried on ever since to a very great extent.

The principal sea-port is Yarmouth. It possesses a considerable share of foreign commerce, particularly with the Baltic, Holland, Portugal, and the Mediterranean.

The whole herring fishery of this part of the coast, which sometimes employs 150 vessels, also centres here; and although Norfolk is a very populous county, yet vast quantities of malt and grain are annually exported from Yarmouth, Wells, Blackeney and Clay, principally to London.

Live Stock, Horses.—The breed of horses is similar to that in Suffolk. They are short and compact, extremely hardy, and so active that a pair of Norfolk horses will plough more land in a day, than is done in any other part of England with four or five in a plough.

Black Cattle.—The native breeds of the county have little to recommend them. They are horned, of a small size, and, for the most part, of a reddish colour. The Suffolk, which is by far the most valuable breed, is now generally in-

roduced. Very great numbers, perhaps upwards of 16,000, Scotch and Irish cattle are purchased annually for feeding principally on turnips. These cattle are commonly fold in Smithfield in the spring of the succeeding year.

Sheep.—The Norfolk breed is small in size, black faced, with long legs, and ill-formed carcases. These sheep are described as being of so restless a disposition as to render it difficult to keep them, except on large sheep-walks and commons. The new Leicester and Suffex breeds have been introduced, which, being more domesticated, are better adapted for an improved and well cultivated country, as Norfolk now is.

LINCOLN.

Situation and Extent.—Lincolnshire, the third in regard to size in England, is bounded on the north by Yorkshire; on the east, by the German ocean; on the south, by Cambridge, Northampton and Rutland; and on the west, by Nottingham and Leicester. Its figure is oblong. Its extreme length is about 75 miles, the breadth nearly 50.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The north and north-west divisions of this county are agreeably interspersed with small hills, which in
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many other counties would only be denominated gentle eminences. The south-east division, called Holland, from its similitude to the province of the same name on the opposite side of the ocean, is an extensive level of fen or marsh land, part of which remains in a state of nature, though a great proportion has been, at much labour and expence, rendered susceptible of cultivation.

The highr grounds, besides affording pasture for numerous flocks of sheep, yield grain of all kinds in great plenty and perfection. The fens are remarkable for the quality of the pasture, and the weighty crops of oats and hemp which they produce. In the undrained marshes, vast numbers of geese are bred. These find a ready sale in the London market, whence they are driven in great numbers by people who make a trade of purchasing them in the county.

Forests and Woodlands.—About the city of Lincoln, and in the interior part of the county, there are several woods, some of them of considerable extent; but the greatest part of the district is destitute of timber.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—The quarter-sessions and county-courts are held at the city of Lincoln. It has some coasting, or rather inland trade, particularly in the import of coals, and the export of oats, wool, &c. The only manufacture is that of camblets. Boston and Gainsborough are the principal ports. Lin-

colnshire formerly enjoyed more trade than it does at present. The chief cause of the decline is the sea-ports being so much choaked up with sand, as to prevent vessels of any considerable burden from getting in. Although neither the trade, nor manufactures of Lincolnshire, are of any extent, compared with that of some other counties, yet it is superior to most others in the richness of its agricultural productions. Horses, cattle, sheep, geese, grain, particularly oats, hemp, flax, potatoes, &c. are exported annually to a very great amount.

Live Stock, Horses.—In the fenny part of the county, great numbers of the large black kind of cart-horses are bred, many of which are sold when young into the adjoining counties of Cambridge, Bedford, Huntingdon, &c. In the higher districts, it is the more general practice to purchase two or three year old horses from Yorkshire; and after keeping them a year or two, they are then disposed of to the London dealers.

Black Cattle.—These are of the short-horned sort; they are of a large size, weighing, when fat, from ten to twelve hundred weight, and frequently more. Several thousands are annually sent to the London market.

A great proportion of them is purchased by the Commissioners of the Victualling Office, and cured for the use of the Royal Navy.

Sheep,

Sheep.—The Lincolnshire sheep are of a large size, and carry a greater quantity of wool (of the long combing kind) than any other breed in the island. Indeed all the varieties of long-wooled sheep in the different parts of England seem to have sprung from the original stock of this county.

YORKSHIRE.

Situation and Extent.—This county, which it is said occupies more space than the seven United Provinces, is bounded on the north by Durham, and part of Westmoreland; on the west, by Lancashire and Westmoreland; on the south, by Chester, Lincoln, Nottingham and Derby; and on the east, by the German Ocean. Its form is nearly an oblong square. It measures about 120 miles from east to west, and upwards of 90 from north to south.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—This extensive county varies exceedingly in regard to surface and general appearance. The west and north-west divisions are for the most part rugged and mountainous. The sea-coast, especially what is called the York Wolds, and all to the northward,

ward, is also comparatively unproductive. On the waste and unimproved parts of these districts, great numbers of sheep are bred; many of which are afterwards disposed of to be fatted on the richer pastures.

The middle division has been long celebrated for its fertility. An Italian bishop, who accompanied Henry VIII. to York in the year 1548, observed, that the country, north of Doncaster, and south of Hallewood, was the richest he had seen in his travels through Europe.

The three ridings of Yorkshire at large may be considered as an epitome of England, and consequently partakes of all the different soils which are to be found in the kingdom.

Those which most generally prevail in the cultivated parts of the county are clay and strong deep loam.

Forests and Woodlands.—From the preceding description of the surface, and general appearance, it will be inferred, that a great part of this district is destitute of trees. In the more cultivated parts, however, woods and coppices are frequent. These prove highly useful in carrying on the various operations of agriculture and manufactures. Here the Scotch traveller, in his progress southward, is astonished with the beauty and variety of prospects which every where meet his eye, so superior to any which his own country at present affords, and which is to be attributed

attributed entirely to the stately hedge-row trees with which almost every field is surrounded. A mode of ornamenting the country, which has been but lately, and indeed only partially, introduced into the sister kingdom.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—The city of York, though the capital of the county, and having the advantage of an inland navigation, is a place of little trade. Of the towns on the sea-coast, Hull and Whitby are the most considerable; they possess a great share, both of foreign and coasting trade. The very extensive woollen manufactures of Leeds, and the neighbouring towns, and the no less extensive cutlery works of Sheffield, are too well known to render any description here necessary. There are several iron-founderies and allum-works erected; and sail-cloth, cottons, stockings, and many other articles, are manufactured in different parts of the county.

Live Stock, Horses.—Yorkshire may justly be ranked as the first county in England for breeding horses, either if the preference is to be determined by the numbers, or by the shape and value of the animal, whether adapted for the coach, the saddle, or the plough. Besides supplying the stock necessary for carrying on the various operations of agriculture, commerce, and manufactures, within the county, very great numbers are sold at the annual fairs of York, Northallerton,

Northallerton, Howden, &c. &c. and carried to London, and to almost every other part of Great Britain.

Black Cattle.—There are properly two breeds of cattle in Yorkshire. The first and the most prevalent are the short-horned, which occupy the eastern and the midland parts of the district. The original breed of these were probably imported from Holland to Holderness, in the East Riding, as in many places they are still known by the different names of the Dutch and Holderness breed. The other breed, which is common on the confines of Yorkshire and Lancashire, is denominated *half long horns*, being a cross between the Holderness and the long-horned Lancashire cattle.

Notwithstanding the numerous large manufacturing towns, situated in this county, yet many cattle are annually disposed of. The Yorkshire short-horned cows are in great request in the dairy counties to the southward, and great numbers are annually sold in London.

Sheep.—There are various breeds in this extensive tract. The old breed of long-woolled sheep is coarse in the carcase, but of a large size, weighing, when three years old, from 30 lb. to 40 lb. the quarter, and producing from 10 lb. to 12 lb. of wool each: These have, however, been pretty generally crossed with tups from Leicestershire; and in the opinion of most of the

the breeders, are greatly improved thereby. The native breed of the moorlands are of a small size, and carrying coarse short wool. The more mountainous parts of the district are principally stocked with the black-faced sheep, such as are common on the hills in the south and west of Scotland.

D U R H A M.

Situation and Extent.—This county, usually called the Bishoprick, is of a triangular form, and is bounded on the north by Northumberland; on the east, by the German Ocean; on the south, by Yorkshire; and on the west, by Cumberland. Its greatest length from north to south is 37 miles, its breadth nearly 50.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—Towards the interior and more remote parts of the district, the prospect is in general bleak, barren, and rather mountainous; but this sterility of surface is in a great measure compensated by the vast abundance of coal, lead, iron-ore, and other minerals, which are found in the bowels of the earth.

The most predominant soil is loam, which varies in quality, according to the degree of elevation

vation in which it is situated. On the banks of the Tees, and adjoining to Yorkshire, it is strong and fertile, producing valuable crops of grain and grass. Higher up, it is more light and gravelly, and better adapted for pasture than tillage. This county produces in perfection all the crops commonly cultivated in the kingdom; a great share of the best land is, however, employed in breeding, rearing and feeding the different species of live-stock.

Forests and Woodlands.—The bishoprick of Durham, when compared with many of the southern counties, is very destitute of timber; the cause of the deficiency in this respect is, that a considerable proportion of the lands are held of the Bishop of Durham, on copyhold and customary tenures, and the proprietors are debarred from using or disposing of any timber growing on their estates, without first compounding with him as lord of the manor; a circumstance which operates most powerfully as a bar against the improvement of the county by means of planting.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Durham is the capital of the county; but in consequence of its inland situation, is deprived of commerce. South Shields, Sunderland, Hartlepool and Stockton, are the sea-ports; they enjoy a considerable share of coasting, and some foreign trade. The manufactures of this county are various

various and extensive; the principal are those of cottons, linens, woollens, yarn, sail-cloth, cordage, glass, &c. besides which there are iron-founderies, smelting-works, potteries, and brick and tile works. These manufactures not only give full employment to many thousands of the inhabitants, but also insure a good and ready market for every article which a farm can produce.

Live Stock, Horses.—The breeds of horses are excellent of their kinds; and great numbers are reared, not only for the road and the harness, but also for the turf and the hunting field.

The London dealers are the chief purchasers; but many are also sold into the neighbouring counties, and a few are bought by people from Scotland.

Black Cattle.—The black cattle are of the short-horned sort, like those in the adjoining counties on the east coast; and in consequence of the extraordinary attention paid by many of the more intelligent farmers to improving the breed, the cattle now common in this district are equal if not superior to any of the same breed in any other part of Great Britain.

Sheep.—The native sheep of the cultivated part of this county are now known by the name of the Teeswater breed. They are of a larger size than any other in England, frequently weighing from 40 lb. to 50 lb. the quarter; and in some instances, even 60 lb. They differ but

little except in point of size from those in Lincolnshire, and it is extremely probable, that they have originally sprung from the same stock. Leicestershire tups have been introduced, and the crosses from these two breeds are considered by all competent judges as much superior to that of the ancient breed. The moorland sheep in this county differ in no material respect from those already mentioned in the account of Yorkshire.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

Situation and Extent.—This is the most northerly county in England. It is bounded on the north by Berwick; on the west, by Cumberland and part of Scotland; on the south, by Durham; and on the east, by the German Ocean. Its form is triangular; its greatest length is near 70 miles, from north to south; its breadth about 45.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The surface is various; towards the south-west it is mountainous, and barren in the extreme, but rendered valuable by its lead-mines. The northern division is occupied by part of the Cheviot hills, which being in general covered with verdure,

ture, are esteemed excellent sheep-walks. The most fertile and best cultivated tracts are on the eastern side, and in the vales through which the rivers hold their courses to the sea.

The soil is similar to that in every other mountainous district. Along the coast, and in the vallies, a deep strong loam, in some places inclining to clay. On the adjoining slopes and rising grounds, it is light, on a bed of gravel or rock. On the lower parts of the mountains, (whence in common filter considerable quantities of water), the soil is a cold wet unproductive clay; towards the middle and the summits of the mountains, it is a composition of gravel and moss, or what is usually termed moorish soil. A considerable portion of the arable lands in this county is occasionally occupied in pasturage. The ordinary crops cultivated are wheat, barley, oats, beans, pease, turnips, rye, &c. but oats in larger quantities than any other kind of grain.

Forests and Woodlands.—This county, like the neighbouring kingdom of Scotland, is but thinly clothed with trees. Along the banks of the principal rivers, there are some remains of ancient forests. The apparent scarcity of timber, added to a desire to improve their estates, have induced many of the proprietors to adopt the laudable plan of planting on a large scale, which will in time remove the present penury of timber,

ber, and add greatly to the annual revenue of their successors.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Alnwick is the head borough; but Newcastle, in regard to extent of commerce and manufactures, exceeds all the other towns in the district. It is situated on the banks of the Tyne, and in the immediate neighbourhood of inexhaustible mines of coal, of which near 700,000 chaldrons are said to be annually exported to the port of London alone. There are also extensive manufactures of broad and narrow cloths, cottons, pottery-ware, glass, steel, iron, &c. which, together with the coal-trade, afford employment to vast numbers of people, and cannot fail to promote the interests of agriculture.

Live Stock, Horses.—At the Newcastle fairs there are always great numbers of horses exposed to sale. They are of various breeds, from the full blood, down to the ordinary kinds used in the operations of husbandry; these last are of the size common in the south and east of Scotland, and are from fifteen to sixteen hands high.

Black Cattle.—The Holdernefs, or short-horned cattle is the prevailing breed in the district. Great numbers are bred; and when arrived at a proper age, and ready for the butcher, they are sold at Morpeth market, (said to be the second in England for fat cattle and sheep), to supply the

the large fleets of colliers, and other trading vessels, belonging to Newcastle, Shields, Sunderland, &c.

In a park in this county, belonging to the Earl of Tankerville, there are a few wild cattle, almost the only remains of the genuine breed which once ranged uncontrolled in the ancient forests of Britain. They are entirely white, except their ears and muzzles, the former of which is red, and the latter black; horns, fine and bent upwards. They weigh from 30 to 45 stone. They are very ferocious when in any degree molested.

Sheep.—There are four different breeds of sheep in the county of Northumberland, viz. a large long-woolled sort, provincially called mugs; the new Leicester; the Cheviot; and the heath sheep. The two former breeds, or rather crosses from them, chiefly occupy the pastures in the best cultivated parts of the county. The heath sheep are to be found in the more barren and sterile divisions, and the Cheviots are natives of those hills from whence they derive their name. Morpeth is also the chief market for the fat sheep of this district; and the colliers and keel men are the principal consumers of the large sized and fattest mutton.

INLAND COUNTIES.

NOTTINGHAM.

Situation and Extent.—The county of Nottingham is bounded on the west by Derby; on the north, by York, and part of Lincoln; and on the south, by Leicester. Its greatest length is about fifty miles, and its extreme breadth nearly twenty-five.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—This county is agreeably diversified in point of surface, being neither so hilly nor mountainous as Derbyshire on the west, nor so flat and destitute of variety as the greatest part of Lincolnshire on the east.

A light friable sand, or clay and strong loam, are the prevailing soils. The former is most general in the west and mid-land parts of the district, where Sherwood forest is situated, and the latter towards the south and east, extending through the extensive fertile vale of Belvoir.

The mode in which the improved lands are occupied, is chiefly tillage and meadow. The crops cultivated are wheat, barley, oats, pease, beans, and turnips; but barley and wheat to a

greater extent than any other kind of crop. The grazing and dairy branches of husbandry are also carried on in some parts of the district. The commons and wastes about Sherwood forest are principally appropriated to the breeding and rearing of sheep.

Forests and Woodlands.--Sherwood forest, known as the scene of the noted outlaw Robin Hood's adventures, once occupied a very great proportion of this county. But many grants having been made by different Kings since the reign of Edward I. to several of the neighbouring proprietors, its ancient limits are now much circumscribed; and, from want of attention, in place of being a nursery for timber for the Royal Navy, it is now a destitute waste, producing nothing but heath, furze and broom. There are, however, some remains of forests in different parts of Nottinghamshire, and which, added to the hedge-row trees that almost every where adorn the inclosed part of the country, may probably be fully equal to the necessary supply of the inhabitants.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Nottingham, the county-town, has been long in repute for its stocking-manufactures, which is carried on in all its branches, and to a greater extent than in any other part of England.

In Newark, Mansfield, Sutton, Southwell, and several other towns, silk, cotton, and thread stockings

stockings are made ; besides which, several other manufactures are carried on, as thread, lace, sail-cloth, &c. This county is also particularly noted for the quality of its malt, of which, as well as wheat, and other grain, great quantities are sent to Cheshire, Lancashire, and the neighbouring counties on the west.

Live Stock, Horses.—The breeding and rearing live stock have not hitherto been so much the object of the farmer's attention, except on the borders of Leicestershire, as the cultivation of grain. The horses reared in this district, and those in general employed in the operations of agriculture, are a middling sort of black cart-horses, very inferior to those of the same colour in Leicestershire, Warwickshire, &c.

Black Cattle.—The black cattle in this county have nothing to recommend them. They are of the Lancashire and Yorkshire breeds, or rather crosses between them, and are not remarkable either for size or shape. Many cattle from Scotland, Ireland, Yorkshire, &c. are purchased lean, and fatted on the pastures in different parts of this county.

Sheep.—The native breed has been much improved of late years, by crossing with tups from the counties of Leicester and Lincoln ; and those on the inclosed pastures will bear a comparison with the best breeds of most other counties. On the open field farms, the sheep are very inferior, which

which is not to be wondered at, considering the manner in which they are treated, and the little attention paid to improving the breed.

DERBY.

Situation and Extent.—This county is bounded on the north by Yorkshire and Cheshire; on the east, by Nottingham; on the south, by Leicester and Stafford; and on the west, by Stafford and Cheshire. Its form is somewhat triangular. The extreme length is about 50 miles; the breadth nearly 38.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—Derbyshire exhibits a variety of surface. The north and west divisions, and particularly towards the north-west, where the Peak is situated, the wonders of which have been so often described, is hilly, or rather mountainous. The southern and middle divisions are more level, fertile, and better cultivated.

The soil in the level part of the county is either clay, or a red kind of loam. In the more elevated situations, it becomes gradually lighter, till it terminates in a gravelly or moorish soil.

The greater proportion of the arable lands is in pasturage, the grazing and dairy-husbandry being carried on to a considerable extent. The

remainder is in tillage; and the ordinary crops of wheat, barley, oats, pease, turnips, &c. are cultivated; but wheat only partially.

Forests and Woodlands.—Excepting in mountainous and exposed situations, there is at present an abundant store of timber all over this county, both for ornament and use: But as few young plantations are formed, and as the demand for wood of all kinds must be very great, where the mining business is carried on to so great an extent, this necessary article is rapidly decreasing in quantity.

Towns, Manufactures and Commerce.—Derby is the county-town, and, together with Chesterfield, Cromford, &c. possesses some manufactures, the principal of which are different kinds of cotton goods. These are now manufactured to a very considerable extent in various parts of the county. Lead from the Derbyshire mines is exported in great quantities; and several large iron foundries are erected. Cheese is almost the only agricultural production that is exported.

Live Stock, Horses.—There are two breeds of horses: That in the mountainous part of the county is a small, active, hardy animal, well adapted for travelling on rough rugged roads, and capable of enduring great fatigue: The other, which is common in the more fertile parts of the district, is the strong, heavy, black sort, so well known, and so justly esteemed over a great part
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of England. Many of this last breed are sold when young into the southern districts; and after being kept there two or three years, the greatest number of them are sent to London, where they are used in the carts, drays, and wag-gons.

Black Cattle.—The Derbyshire cattle are long horned; and in consequence of the ancient breed having been crossed with the more valuable sorts of Leicester and Lancashire, great improvements have been effected; insomuch that in many parts of this county, bulls and cows are to be seen, which are valued at L. 200 or L. 300 each.

Sheep.—In regard to the breeds of sheep, there is little that merits observation. The new Leicester, with various crosses between them and the native long-woolled sheep, occupy many of the richer pastures. On the mountains and hills a confused variety of the different sorts of heath-sheep abound.

STAFFORD.

Situation and Extent.—Staffordshire is bounded on the east by Leicester; on the north, by Derby and Cheshire; on the west, by Shropshire; and on the south, by Warwick and Worcester. It is a long narrow tract, ending in a point

point both at the south and north extremities. Its greatest length is nearly 60 miles, the breadth does not exceed 35.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The surface of this county is various. The northern division, here called Moorlands, resembles the mountainous part of Derbyshire, and although unproductive on the surface, contains inexhaustible mines of coal, lead, copper iron-stone, &c. The southern and middle divisions are more level and fertile, containing only a few gentle eminences.

All the different kinds of clays, loams, gravelly and mossy soils, which are common in any district, possessing a great variety of surface, are to be found in Staffordshire.

The ordinary crops are, wheat, barley, oats, beans, pease, rye, turnips, and potatoes; but hemp, flax, rape, vetches, buckwheat, and cabbages, are also frequently cultivated in the fields. The dairy and sheep husbandry is also carried on to a considerable extent.

Forests and Woodlands.—The greatest part of Staffordshire is entitled to the denomination of a well wooded country, possessing a much greater stock of timber than is necessary to supply the ordinary consumpt within the district; and it may also be remarked, that owing to the exertions of several of the proprietors of the present day, there is every reason to hope that the general

ral stock will be kept up, many young plantations having been lately formed, and proper attention paid to preserve a succession of timber in the ancient woodlands.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Stafford, notwithstanding it is the county-town, is a place of little trade, possessing only some manufactures, of which those of hats, shoes, and tanned leather are the most considerable. Wolverhampton is well known for its manufactures of hardware, as locks, buckles, watch-chains, edge-tools, and japanned goods of various kinds. Burton upon Trent is justly celebrated for its fine ale, which is reckoned superior to any in England. Staffordshire is also famous for the quality of its pottery-ware, and the extent of its nail manufactures.

Live Stock, Horses.—The breeding and rearing of horses, at least beyond what is necessary to keep up the ordinary stock, is by no means considered as a principal object. The breed most common is the same already mentioned in the account of Derbyshire.

Black Cattle.—These are of the long horned or Lancashire sort, varying in shape and value according to the degree of attention paid by the farmers to improving the breed. The cows give from 16 to 24 quarts of milk in the day, and weigh, when fat, from 40 to 60 stone, 14 lb. to the stone.

Sheep.

Sheep.—There are several breeds of sheep in this district. They may, however, be reduced to two, namely, the large long woolled, which are reared on the inclosed pastures; and the mountain short woolled, which are kept on the commons and wastes. The former are chiefly of the Leicester breed; the latter have been introduced from various districts.

LEICESTER.

Situation and Extent.—This county is bounded on the east, by Rutland and Lincoln; on the north, by Derby and Nottingham; on the west, by Stafford and Warwick; and on the south, by Northampton. It extends from north to south about 25 miles, and from east to west nearly 30.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The surface is in general agreeably diversified, there being few hills of any magnitude, except towards the north-west, where the Bardon hills and Charley forest, (a rough uncultivated tract,) are situated.

The soil is various, consisting of loams of different textures, but in general of a good quality and very productive.

A small proportion of the lands is in tillage, many of the pastures are occupied as dairy-farms,

and in feeding cattle. The breeding and rearing of horses is also much practised; but sheep-husbandry is that which has raised this county to its present height of fame. It has indeed been long remarkable for its breed of sheep, for Dyer, in his Poem of the Fleece, has the following remark:

Need we the level greens of Lincoln note,
Or rich Leicestria's marly plains, for length
Of whitest locks, and magnitude of fleece
Peculiar: envy of the neighbouring realms.

Forests and Woodlands.—There are scarcely forests or woodlands of any extent; but the greatest part of the most fertile lands having been long inclosed, there is a considerable stock of timber in the hedge-rows.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Leicester, Loughborough, Market-Harborough, and Melton Mowbray, are the chief towns; but except some manufactures of cottons, woollen yarn, and stockings, there is little commerce or manufactures carried on.

Of the agricultural exports, fat cattle and sheep are the principal; many young horses are also disposed of; great quantities of that kind of cheese known by the name of Stilton, is made in the neighbourhood of Melton Mowbray; and catsup, to the extent of 200 or 300 hogheads.

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is made of the mushrooms which grow in the neighbourhood of Market-Harborough.

Live Stock, Horses.—They are of the heavy black sort; and in consequence of particular attention being paid to improving the breed, are in great request. Many young horses are annually sold to the farmers in the southern counties, numbers of which are in a few years afterwards disposed of to dealers in London.

Black Cattle.—The Leicestershire cattle are long horned, and many of them, from their superior shape and form, sell for high prices. The graziers purchase numbers of lean cattle from Scotland, Ireland, and Wales; these are generally disposed of, when fat, at Smithfield.

Sheep.—There are properly three breeds of sheep in the district, viz. the old Leicestershire, the Dishley or new Leicestershire, and the forest or moorland; the last are such as are to be found on all the open exposed pastures in the kingdom. In regard to the two former, more particular notice will be taken of them in a subsequent Chapter, when treating on Live Stock.

RUTLAND.

Situation and Extent.—This county, the smallest in England, is encircled by Northampton, Lincoln,

Lincoln and Leicester. It is of a round, or rather oval form, measuring about 15 miles in length, and scarcely 12 in breadth.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The surface is beautifully diversified, being a continued succession of hill and dale, and exhibiting a chearful variety of pleasing rural scenery.

The general character of the soil is that of loam, but of different qualities, some of it being light and shallow, on a bed of limestone, the greatest proportion, however, is strong and deep, the under stratum being stiff blue clay.

Wheat, barley, pease, beans, and turnips, are cultivated to a considerable extent, but oats only in small quantities. Besides the meadows, which are mown for hay, many of the old inclosures are allowed to remain in pasturage.

Forests and Woodlands.—This county is abundantly supplied with timber for all domestic purposes, such as house-building, gates, hurdles, &c. but the stock is not so large as to make it an article of export.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—There are only two market-towns, Oakham and Uppingham; the former is the county town, but neither manufactures nor commerce are carried on to any extent.

Live Stock, Horses.—The greatest number of horses used in the operations of husbandry, are purchased from the neighbouring counties. Such

as are bred are of the strong black kind, common in the adjoining county of Leicester.

Black Cattle.—Few are bred here, nor can the county boast of having any breed of cattle peculiar to itself. As grazing is the system chiefly adopted on the old inclosed lands, the farmers purchase cattle from all quarters, principally those sent from Scotland and Ireland, which, after being fattened on grass, are sent to the London market. The practice of stall feeding with turnip, oil-cake, &c. is little known, and less practised. Young cows (heifers) are frequently purchased from the northern counties, and sold next year in calf, either in London or in some of the dairy counties in its vicinity.

Sheep.—Of these there are great numbers annually bred. They are partly of the Lincolnshire, but chiefly of the old Leicester sort. Both have been improved within these few years, by the introduction of tups of the Bakewell or new Leicester breed. After supplying the county, the remainder are sent to London. If turnip fed the second spring, they are sold at two years old; if not, they are sold in the course of the following grass-season.

NOR.

NORTHAMPTON.

Situation and Extent—Northamptonshire is bounded on the north, by Rutland, Lincoln, and Leicester; on the west, by Oxford and Warwick; on the south, by Buckingham and Bedford; and on the east, by Cambridge and Huntingdon. It is 65 miles in length, and where broadest about 32.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The features of this county are delightful and picturesque. No where do rugged rocks, nor dreary and unsightly mountains offend the eye, nor is the surface any where so irregular as to prevent any of the operations of husbandry and tillage. Every hill is cultivated, or may be kept in a profitable state of pasturage, and every inequality contributes to the ornament and beauty of the country. In fine, the lovers of rural scenes may here be gratified to the utmost extent of their wishes.

There is great variety in the soil; a rich fertile loam prevails in the more level parts of the district, and on the hills generally a light clay of an indifferent quality, being very retentive of water.

A considerable proportion of the county is occupied in the cultivation of grain, a great share of it being still in the open field state. The remainder

remainder is in grass, woodlands, meadows, and commons.

Forests and Woodlands.—There are several very extensive royal forests, chases and private woodlands. The forests and chases are, when compared with the woodlands, of little value, arising from the improper management and want of attention. Large quantities of oak-timber are annually exported from this county. The underwoods yield considerable yearly returns, and afford work to a great number of hands, who are engaged in making hurdles for sheep-folding, and many articles for domestic use.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—The town of Northampton is of considerable extent, and, together with Wellingborough, enjoys a very extensive share of the export shoe-trade, many thousand pairs being manufactured every week, and sent to London.

The bone lace manufacture is carried on in the south and west parts of the county, which, besides giving work to the poor people in every village, hamlet and cottage, is the means of returning larger sums for the yearly labour of this description of the inhabitants, than could be derived from any other employment.

At Kettering there are some branches of the woollen manufacture, as tammys, callimancoes, and everlastings; but this business is in a great measure put a stop to, in consequence of the war,

war. There are several other towns, as Peterborough, Oundle, Higham-ferrers, Towcester, Daventry, &c. but they are not remarkable for their trade or manufactures.

Grain, fat cattle, sheep, and butter, are exported to a large amount, the former to the adjoining counties, and the three latter chiefly to London.

Live Stock, Horses.—To the counties of Leicester, Derby, Lincoln, and York, are the Northamptonshire farmers for the most part indebted for the supply of horses necessary to keep up their teams. They generally purchase at one, two, or three years old; and after keeping them two or three years, dispose of them for a considerable profit to dealers from London.

Black Cattle.—The greatest part of the old inclosed lands being occupied in grazing and fattening oxen and sheep for the London market, few farmers have hitherto turned their attention to breeding and rearing black cattle. The different breeds of Yorkshire and Lancashire are common on the inclosed farms; and in many of the open field lordships, there is a confused mixture of almost all sorts of breeds. Some occupiers of inclosed farms, have been at pains to improve the breed of black cattle, (the Lancashire sort), and instances there are, where they have been very successful.

Sheep.

Sheep.—Besides the heath sheep which range on the commons, there may be said to be two other breeds in the district. These are known under the names of the old improved and new improved, or new Leicester. The former is the ancient breed of the county, improved by crosses from Lincolnshire. The other may be called an improved breed from them, by means of tups from Leicestershire. The difference in smallness of bone and disposition to fatten, is much in favour of that last mentioned.

HUNTINGDON,

Situation and Extent.—This county is almost encircled on the east, north and west, by Northampton and Cambridge shires; and is bounded on the south, by Bedford. Its extreme length is about 23 miles, and the extreme breadth under 20.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The upland part of this district possesses all that beautiful variety of scenery which is so generally met with in this quarter of the kingdom.

The north-east consists of extensive tracts of fens, and the prospect is tame and uninviting.

There

There are several distinct sort of soils in this county, but those which most commonly prevail, are clays and loams, the last generally of a light and friable nature.

The lands are for the most part in constant tillage; this system is not adopted on account of its superior excellence, but as a necessary consequence of a great proportion of the county being still in the open field state. The remainder is occupied in mixed husbandry, or in pasturage.

Forests and Woodlands.—There are no forests properly so called; and though there are numerous tracts of woodlands, yet these are very limited in point of extent; which, added to the circumstance of a great part of the county being still in the open field state, accounts for that deficiency of timber, which is so generally observable by every traveller.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Huntingdon is the county-town; it is more noted for being the birth-place of the famous usurper Oliver Cromwell, than for its trade or manufactures. Saint Ives and Ramsay are also market-towns. But this county is probably more destitute of commerce, manufactures and trade, than any other in England. Considerable quantities of grain however are exported, and malt to a large amount sent from Saint Ives and other places to London.

Live Stock, Horses.—There are considerable numbers bred, particularly in the fenny parts of the county. These, beyond what is necessary to keep up the ordinary stock, are sold, when young, to farmers and dealers in the neighbouring counties.

Black Cattle.—Few are bred in this district, the system of grazing and feeding being more followed by those who possess the fens and pastures, than that of breeding and rearing.

Considerable numbers of lean cattle are annually purchased from Scotland, and the northern English counties, and when fat, are disposed of chiefly in Smithfield.

Sheep.—The breed of sheep on the inclosed farms are of a good quality, having been much improved, in consequence of being crossed with those of Leicester and Lincoln shires.—This county contributes its share of fat sheep for the supply of the London market.

CAMBRIDGE.

Situation and Extent.—Cambridgeshire is bounded on the west by Huntingdon; on the north, by Lincoln; on the east, by Norfolk; and on the south, by Essex and Hertford. Its extreme

treame length is nearly 50 miles, and its greatest breadth about 26.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—This district exhibits a variety of surface, and at the same time extremely different. The north part of the county, where the isle of Ely is situated, is an extensive fenny tract, with few elevations of any magnitude. The south-east division is bleak open heath, and but thinly inhabited, while the south-west is agreeably varied with hill and dale, populous, and in general well cultivated.

The predominant soils, as may be easily imagined from the preceding description, are clay, loam, and gravel or sand. The first and last are chiefly occupied in pasturage, and the other in the cultivation of grain, and green crops.

Forests and Woodlands.—There are few counties of the same extent in England that are so destitute of woodlands as Cambridge; and from the small proportion of the lands which are in a state of inclosure, there are comparatively but an indifferent stock of hedge-row timber.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Cambridge is the county-town, and famous for its University, which is said to have been founded during the Saxon Heptarchy. Cambridge, as well as Wisbeach, possesses some trade, particularly in the export of grain. Newmarket, situated on the confines of the county of Suffolk, is

perhaps the most celebrated place in Europe for horse-races, and numbers of the finest horses in Great Britain are constantly trained and exercised there. This county is in a great measure destitute of manufactures.

Live Stock, Horses.—Cambridgeshire is not remarkable for any peculiar breed of horses. The Suffolk punch, and the heavy black, are most prevalent.

Black Cattle.—The dairy-husbandry being carried on to a considerable extent, the farmers purchase a number of cows from Suffolk, Yorkshire, Leicester, Derby, and even from Wales and Scotland, in order to keep up their stock; consequently the breed is very much mixed.

Sheep.—Great numbers of sheep are kept in this district. The general stock may be little short of 200,000. On the fenny and richer pastures, the long-woolled Lincolnshire and Leicestershire sorts are most common. In the other parts of the district, a great variety of breeds are to be found, as Norfolk, Berkshire, South Down, and the old Cambridgeshire.

BEDFORD.

Situation and Extent.—Bedfordshire is bounded on the west by Buckingham; on the south, by

by Hertford; on the north, by Huntingdon and Northampton; and on the east, by Cambridge and part of Hertford. Its extreme length is about thirty-six miles, and its greatest breadth, nearly twenty.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The surface is much diversified, the county abounding with small hills, interspersed with numerous vallies of inconsiderable extent.

The soil is as various as the surface. Clay and strong loam are to be found in some parts, but light, sandy, gravelly and chalky soils are more predominant.

This county is by no means in such a state of cultivation as might be expected, when its vicinity to the best market in Great Britain is considered. Open fields, wastes, and commons, almost every where disfigure the face of the country, and reflect no small degree of blame on the proprietors for their inattention in this respect.

Perhaps two-thirds of this county is in the open and common field state, and consequently occupied chiefly in the cultivation of grain.

On the old inclosed lands, dairy husbandry is most common, and large quantities of butter, as well as numbers of sheep, hogs, and veal, are sent to London.

Forests and Woodlands.—There are large tracts of woodlands, and a considerable stock of valuable oak-timber in this district, which, by the
spirited

spirited exertions of several proprietors, are likely to be augmented, many plantations having been lately formed, and a spirit for planting pretty generally introduced. The underwood seems but little attended to; and is consequently of inconsiderable value, compared with what it might be brought to if proper care was bestowed.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Bedford is the county-town. In consequence of its navigable river, it has some trade in corn, malt, coals, timber, &c. and there, as well as in several other towns, bone-lace is manufactured. The people in and about Dunstable have long excelled in the manufacture of straw-hats, baskets, toys, &c. The trade and manufactures of this district are, however, upon the whole, inconsiderable.

Live Stock, Horses.—Except some of the hunting and race sorts, there are few horses bred in this county. The farmers generally supply their teams, by purchasing from the adjoining counties of Huntingdon and Lincoln. They commonly purchase horses of two years old; and after working them gently for four or five years, dispose of them in London at considerable advanced prices.

Black Cattle.—In a county so immediately adjoining to London, and where so great a proportion of the lands is in the open field state, it is

not

not to be expected, that much attention can be paid, or improvements effected in regard to live stock of any kind. The black cattle are a mixed breed of the short and long horned kinds many being annually purchased from Yorkshire, Lancashire, &c. as chance or the fancy of the farmers may direct.

Sheep.—The sheep bred on the open field farms are similar to those in many other parts of the kingdom. Inferior in size, and in the quantity and quality of wool, but superior in regard to weight of bone, &c. to those of the more improved breeds of Leicester and Lincoln; on the inclosed farms, these last breeds are very generally introduced.

BUCKINGHAM.

Situation and Extent.—Buckinghamshire is bounded on the east by the counties of Bedford, Hertford, and Middlesex; on the south, by Surry and Berkshire; on the west, by Oxford; and on the north, by Northampton. It is very irregular in form, measuring upwards of 50 miles from north-west to south-east, and its breadth nowhere exceeding 17 miles.

Surface,

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The centre of this district is occupied by the extensive fertile vale of Aylesbury, where, as Cowper says, the

— Onse, flow winding through a level plain

Of spacious meads, with cattle sprinkled o'er,

Conducts the eye along his sinuous course —

Delighted. —

while the two extremities rise into gentle hills, affording innumerable pleasant prospects of the adjacent counties.

The soil in the vale is principally clay, or a deep rich loam; ascending towards the hills, the loam becomes lighter and more friable, till it terminates in a thin gravel on a bed of chalk. The more productive soils are for the most part converted into meadow and grazing husbandry, while the hills are either occupied as woodlands, or more generally employed in the cultivation of grain.

Wheat, barley, oats, and beans, are cultivated to a greater extent than is necessary for the supply of the inhabitants. But the fat cattle, sheep, and hogs, veal, butter, &c. which are sent to the London market, bring a much greater return of money into the county than is brought from the sale of the surplus grain.

Forests and Woodlands.—Buckinghamshire is abundantly stored with wood, particularly beech, of which there are several thousand acres. There are also several coppices; but these being subject to the pasturage of deer and of the commoners cattle, are comparatively of little value. Numerous plantations have been lately formed, which will in time supply the fall of the present stock of timber.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Aylebury is the most populous town, and there the assizes are held. This county is noted for its manufacture of bone-lace, which is carried on to some extent in almost every town, village, and hamlet in the district. Extensive paper-mills have also been erected; but manufactures have hitherto furnished employment to a small proportion only of the inhabitants.

Live Stock, Horses.—There are very few horses bred. The farmers generally purchase what they want from the northern districts, at two or three years old, which they consider more advantageous than rearing.

Black Cattle.—The prevalent breeds are those of Lincolnshire and Yorkshire, very few being reared in the district, especially on the dairy-farms, where milk is the principal object attended to. Great numbers of oxen are purchased from Yorkshire and Herefordshire, which, when grazed for six or eight months, rise to an immense
size;

nize, and are sold at high prices in the London market.

Sheep.—This being a feeding, rather than a breeding county, it cannot be said to possess any breed of sheep peculiar to itself. Wiltshire and Berkshire are the districts from whence the Buckinghamshire farmers chiefly supply themselves.

HERTFORD.

Situation and Extent.—This county is bounded on the north by Cambridge; on the east, by Essex; on the south, by Middlesex; and on the west, by Buckingham. Its extreme breadth is about 25 miles, and the greatest length nearly 35.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The surface of Hertfordshire is in general varied with small hills and vales, but there are few extensive level tracts. Towards the northern boundary, it rises into hills, which, however, are not of great altitude.

The soil is for the most part clay or loam, a considerable portion of the last is of a light texture. Sandy and gravelly soils, on a substratum of chalk, also abound.

The

The cultivation of grain is the principal object of the farmer's attention. Hertfordshire wheat and barley have been long in great repute at the London market. And there is perhaps no county in Great Britain of similar extent, which is more closely cultivated, or from whence a greater quantity of grain is exported.

Forests and Woodlands.—Although there are no extensive forests, yet there are considerable quantities of timber in the numerous parks and pleasure grounds with which the county abounds. There are also a great many small woods and coppices in various parts, which, added to the hedge-row trees, not only greatly embellished the scenery, but also afford a supply of timber more than sufficient for the demand within the county.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Hertford is the county-town, and, together with Ware, carries on the malting trade to a very great extent. St Alban's, Baldock, Royston, and Hitchin, are also situated in Hertfordshire; but, except some cotton-mills, which have been lately erected, and a share of the straw-hat business of Dunstable, there are no manufactures in the county, nor any trade or commerce, beyond that of supplying the inhabitants with such shop-goods as they have occasion for; grain, malt and timber, are the chief articles of export, and London the only market.

Live Stock.—This county being for the most part occupied in the cultivation of grain, there is scarcely any live stock bred or reared; and the instances are very rare, where attention is paid to this branch of rural œconomy. The horses necessary for keeping up the teams, are purchased when young from the northern districts, and are commonly sold in London when five or six years old, as is the usual practice with the farmers in the different counties within reach of that market. Black cattle are purchased from Yorkshire, and the other breeding districts, and sheep for the most part from Wiltshire.

MIDDLESEX.

Situation and Extent.—Middlesex is bounded on the north by Hertfordshire; on the west, by Buckingham; on the south, by the river Thames, which separates it from Surry; and on the east, by Essex. It measures about 22 miles from east to west, and about 15 from north to south.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The county of Middlesex displays a beautifully varied surface, abounding with many gentle swells and bending vales, which being in numberless instances embellished by the utmost exertions of the

the ablest artists, affords a diversity of beauty and richness of prospect scarcely to be equalled.

Clay, loam, and gravel, are the general soils ; but loam extends over a greater portion of the district than either of the other two.

Parks, pleasure grounds, gardens, orchards, nurseries, meadows, pastures and woodlands, occupy the greatest part of Middlesex, nor is it without its wastes and commons. Hounslow-heath, Enfield Chase, Finchley common, besides many others of lesser note, make a considerable appearance on the map of the county. In regard to the mode in which the tillage-lands are employed, there is nothing worthy of remark.

Forests and Woodlands.—There are some forests, or rather woodlands, belonging to the Crown, which added to those possessed by private proprietors, and the very great number of trees in the hedge-rows, must yield a very considerable annual supply of timber.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—The city of London is situated in this county. It is not only the metropolis of Great Britain, but in regard to commerce, may justly be considered as the emporium of Europe. The other market-towns are of little consideration, Brentford, Edgware, Enfield, and Uxbridge, are the principal.

Besides

Besides the general commerce of Great Britain, in which it largely participates, the Hudson's Bay, Turkey and East India trades, are confined to London.

In regard to manufactures, all the different branches common in the other parts of the kingdom, are carried on here to a certain extent. Some others, as silk weaving, gold, silver, and jewellery works, engraving, optical and mathematical instrument making, are almost peculiar to London. That justly celebrated malt-liquor, porter, is also made in this city in greater perfection than in any other part of the island.

Notwithstanding the immense number of inhabitants, it is surprising how regularly and abundantly they are supplied with provisions. This, however, may be explained, by observing, first, That the great body of the farmers in Middlesex, and the adjoining counties, devote their attention to furnish a regular supply of the smaller articles, as veal, house-lamb, poultry, fruit, garden-stuffs, milk, butter, cheese, &c. while the systems of grazing and feeding adopted in the counties at a greater distance, though within reach of this great market, are so materially different from each other, that the general stock of fat cattle and sheep can only be sent to Smithfield at particular seasons. In the second place, The abundance of the supply, particularly of the great articles of provisions, as grain and
black

black cattle, may be accounted for by this single observation, namely, that there is not one county, from Cornwall to John o'Groat's House, that does not contribute a share.

Live Stock, Horses.—There are few horses bred in Middlesex; those used in the operations of husbandry, as well as in the carts, drays, and waggons about London, are of the large, heavy, black kind from Leicestershire, &c. These, as has formerly been observed, are generally bought at second hand, the breeders disposing of them when one or two years old to farmers in the southern counties, who again dispose of them to London dealers in the course of two or three years afterwards.

Black Cattle.—The black cattle, as may naturally be expected, are a very mixed breed. Cows of all sorts and sizes are purchased to keep up the stock.—Milk being the principal object, the size and form of the animal are little regarded. The number of cows kept for supplying London with milk, is said to exceed 7000, and the sum annually paid for that article alone cannot be much short of L.300,000.

Sheep.—There is nothing in the sheep-husbandry of this district that merits the least degree of attention, except that which respects rearing house-lamb. These are always bred from Dorsetshire ewes; they generally drop their lambs soon after Michaelmas. The lambs

are put into a house erected for the purpose, into which their mothers, who are kept on green food, are allowed to enter once a-day, and to remain during night, for the purpose of suckling them; which practice is continued till the lambs are ready for market.

SURRY.

Situation and Extent.—This county is bounded on the north by the river Thames, which divides it from Middlesex; on the west, by Berks and Hampshire; on the south, by Suffex; and on the east, by Kent. Its greatest breadth is nearly 28 miles, and the extreme length about 36.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—A charming intermixture of hill and dale prevails over the whole of this district; and Richmond-hill may justly be said to possess a greater variety of delightful prospects than any other spot in the island.

Clay, loam, sand, gravel, and chalk soils are to be found in Surry; but those of the lighter sort are the most prevailing.

The greatest part of the lands are in tillage, and the crops generally cultivated in the other parts

parts of the kingdom are common here; to which may be added carrots, parsnips, and vegetables of every kind for the supply of London, and also various kinds of physical herbs, as lavender, peppermint, hyssop, sage, &c. There are many valuable pastures along the banks of the Thames; but to the shame of the proprietors be it said, upwards of one-seventh of the whole extent of the county is wastes and commons, notwithstanding its vicinity to the best market in the island.

Forests and Woodlands.—There are considerable tracts of woodlands in this district; but the greatest stock of timber is in the hedge-rows, and in the parks around the proprietors houses. Many of the woodlands are indifferently cared for, and the trees cut down before they arrive at proper maturity; the consequence of which must be a rapid decrease of this indispensable article.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Guildford is the county-town; but the borough of Southwark, which may be said to form part of London, is in every respect superior. Farnham, near the borders of Hampshire, is remarkable for its hop-market. Dorking has been long in high repute, as possessing the largest breed of fowls in the kingdom; and Richmond and Kew are royal residences. With regard to the commerce, manufactures, and trade of this county, they are so blended with those of London, that a particular

Far description of them is unnecessary. It should, however, be observed, that several very large distilleries and starch-works are erected, the refuse of which is used in feeding hogs. Upwards of 10,000 are said to be annually fattened at these works.

Live Stock, Horses.—With respect to the horses in Surry, nothing remains to be added, beyond what is stated in the preceding account of Middlesex.

Black Cattle.—The breeds of cattle, like those in Middlesex, are of various sorts, few being reared in the district. The stock of milch-cows is kept up by purchasing from other districts. The Yorkshire short-horned kind are most common. They are not purchased directly from that county, but from the counties of Rutland, Northampton, &c. where they generally stop some time in their progress southward. Besides milk, butter, &c. a great many calves are fattened for veal, and sent to London.

Sheep.—The number of sheep in this district is very considerable. The breeds of Suffex and Dorset are in great repute; but several other breeds are also common. Many thousands of house-lambs are annually reared, and sent to London.

BERKS.



OXFORD.

Situation and Extent.—This county is bounded on the west by Gloucester; on the north, by Warwick and Northampton; on the east, by Buckingham; and on the south, by Berks. It is extremely irregular. The greatest length from south-east to north-west is 50 miles, and the greatest breadth nearly 30.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—Oxfordshire, like the adjoining county of Buckingham, is more level, and the surface more gently and agreeably diversified towards the middle, than at either of the extremities which rise into hills, the most considerable of which are known by the name of the Chiltern.

The prevailing soils are clay, loam and chalk, the two last extend over the greatest part of the county.

Dairy and grazing are branches of the general Agricultural System adopted in Oxfordshire. A part of the lands being still in the open field state, is constantly employed in cultivation, while in many of the late inclosed parts of the county, an alternate course of grain and grass crops is common.

Forests and Woodlands.—The royal forest of Whichwood or Witchwood, lies towards the west side of this county, and is the most exten-

five forest in the district. There are several woodlands of considerable space dispersed through different parts of Gloucestershire, and on the Chiltern hills are several large woods of beech.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—The city of Oxford is the capital of the county and the seat of the greatest University in Great Britain. The towns of Whitney and Banbury have manufactures of woollen goods, chiefly blankets, and that of Woodstock carries on a considerable trade in polished steel.

Live Stock, Horses.—Many horses are bred in this county, but a great many more are purchased when young. They are of the strong heavy black sort, and the common practice is to dispose of them to London dealers when five or six years old.

Black Cattle.—Cows from various quarters are annually purchased, to keep up the general stock, and both the short-horned Yorkshire, and the long-horned Lancashire, have been very generally introduced. Some long-horned bulls and cows, the stock of the late Mr Fowler of Rollright, in this county, were sold by auction some years ago, when 41 bulls and cows sold for the astonishing sum of L. 3979, 10s. being upwards of L. 97 each.

Sheep.—The sheep are of as various breeds as the black cattle. On the Chiltern hills there is a small fort, which is probably the remains of the

the original breed of the county. Of late years, attention has been paid by all ranks to this important branch of husbandry, and in consequence of the introduction of more valuable breeds, as those of Leicester, Suffex, Berks, and Dorset, great improvements have been effected.

WARWICK.

Situation and Extent.—The county of Warwick is situated almost in the centre of England, and is bounded by the counties of Stafford, Worcester, and Gloucester, on the west, from north to south; and by Leicester, Northampton, and Oxford, on the east. It is of an irregular form, terminating in sharp angles, both at the north and south. Its extreme length is nearly 50 miles, and towards the middle about 30 in breadth.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The southern part of this district is champaign, fertile, and well cultivated; while the northern, which was formerly an immense forest, is more intermixed with hill and dale.

The soil is chiefly strong clay, or fine dry loam, both very productive, and yields abundant crops both of grain and grass. A considerable

able portion of the lands is occupied in grazing husbandry; and besides, what is necessary for the supply of the inhabitants, great numbers of fat cattle and sheep are sent to the London market.

Forests and Woodlands.—There are still considerable remains of ancient forests and woodlands, which being properly attended to, are advantageous to the proprietors. The underwood is converted into hurdles, hoops, brooms, &c. and numbers of people are employed in the manufacture of these articles.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Warwick is the county-town, but a place of little trade. At Birmingham, the various manufactures of hardware, metal buttons, buckles, plated and japanned goods of all kinds, have flourished so greatly, that it now stands unrivalled, and has with much justice been called the toy-shop of Europe. Coventry has also been long famous for its manufacture of silk ribbons: gauzes, camblets, lastings, &c. are also made there. Several other manufacturing towns are situated in Warwickshire; but these are of little note, compared with the two above mentioned.

Live Stock, Horses.—This district is entitled to rank high in the list of those which are celebrated for their breed of horses. Many coach, cart and hunting horses are annually bred, and
turn

turn out profitable to those who pay the necessary attention to this part of rural œconomy.

Black Cattle.—The long horned is the prevailing breed, the cows are in general coarse made, but are esteemed good milchers. Several intelligent farmers have bestowed considerable attention on the improvement of this species of stock, and have been generally successful in regard to improving the form; but these improved breeds are considered deficient in regard to the article of milk.

Sheep.—This county is not remarkable for its breed of sheep. On the commons and lands of inferior quality, the small gray or dun faced kind is every where to be seen. While many of the richer pastures are employed in rearing and fattening the larger long woolled sort; but many of both kinds are annually purchased from other counties to be fattened for the butcher.

WORCESTER.

Situation and Extent.—Worcestershire is bounded on the east by Warwick; on the south, by Gloucester; on the west, by Hereford; and on the north, by Stafford and Shropshire. This county is remarkably irregular, having

ving several detached portions interpersed among the adjoining counties. It measures about 30 miles in length, and upwards of 20 in breadth.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—The surface is much diversified with hill and vale; but as the higher hills are situated towards the extremities of the county, the centre has rather the appearance of a plain, the various gentle risings being scarcely discernible, when viewed from a distance.

The prevailing soil in the vale is clay, or rich fertile loam on a clay bottom. In the other parts of the district light loam, gravel, sand, and in some places peat-earth is to be found.

The lands are chiefly occupied in the cultivation of grain; there are also many rich and valuable pastures. The proportion of such lands as may be properly denominated waste, is smaller, considering the extent of the county, than is to be found in almost any other in the kingdom.

Hops and fruit, *viz.* apples and pears, are cultivated on a large scale, and with great success.

Forests and Woodlands.—Worcestershire, although formerly remarkable for the extent of its woods and forests, is now but indifferently stocked with timber; there are, however, several small tracts of woodlands in various parts, which, added to the trees in the hedge-rows, and one or two extensive woods, afford a sufficient supply

supply of timber for every purpose within the county. The underwood is chiefly used as hop-poles, or converted into charcoal for the iron-works.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Worcester is the capital, and a considerable town, possessing very extensive manufactures of gloves and China-ware. Kidderminster has been long in repute for the quality of the carpets manufactured there; these are generally known by the name of Wilton carpets, from having been first made in that town. At Stourbridge, there are several glass and iron works, and Droitwich, on the navigable river Salwarp, is remarkable for the immense quantities of salt made from the brine-springs adjoining, which is sent to Bristol, and other places.

Besides fat cattle and sheep, which are sent in great numbers to London and other markets, wool, fruit, cyder, perry and hops, are exported to a very large amount.

Live Stock, Horses.—The horses are of the heavy black sort, but clumsy and ill proportioned, and stand in great want of improvement, which might be easily effected, were the proprietors to be at the trouble of introducing horses and mares from other districts, where more attention has been paid to improving the breeds.

Black Cattle.—There are but few cattle reared in the district; many are purchased from Hereford,

Hereford, Stafford, and Gloucester, and sometimes from Yorkshire. The few that are reared are rather crosses from these above mentioned, than any breed peculiar to the county.

Sheep.—The prevailing breed is a small sort, originally from Wales. The Hereford, Wilts, Warwick and Leicester breeds, have been introduced, which cannot fail in time of producing a great improvement in the general breed of the district.

HEREFORD.

Situation and Extent.—Hereford is bounded on the east by Worcester and Gloucestershires; on the north, by the county of Salop; on the west, by Brecon and Radnor in Wales; and, on the south, by Monmouth. Its extreme length is about 45 miles, and the greatest breadth 40.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—This fertile county, sometimes denominated the garden of England, abounds with all that diversity of prospects described by Dyer :

“ Hills, rivers, woods and lawns, and purple groves,”

are every where to be seen, which, aided by the addition of corn-fields, meadows, orchards, and
hop

hop-plantations, form a scenery rarely to be equalled either for variety, richness, or beauty.

A kindly pleasant working loam is the prevailing character of the soil, although clay is to be found in some places, and light gravel in others.

The greatest proportion of the land is employed in tillage, the remainder in meadows, pastures, hop-grounds, orchards, woodlands, &c.

Forests and Woodlands.—This county abounds in woodlands and orchards, which, added to the timber in the hedge-rows, is more than sufficient for the supply of the inhabitants. The coppices are kept in good order, and in some instances yield a very great return to the proprietors. They are cut down in succession, and when from ten to fifteen years old. The wood is for the most part made into hurdles, for which there is a constant demand.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Hereford is the capital. The other towns are Ross, Ledbury, and Leominster; but the manufactures of this county are very trifling, and cannot be said to have tended in any material degree to its present prosperity. The exports from the county are fat cattle, sheep, hogs, grain, cyder and hops, to a very large amount.

Live Stock, Horses.—The same system which is adopted in some of the neighbouring counties, in regard to horses, is followed here. Many

are annually purchased from Derby and other districts; and after being gently wrought for two or three years, are afterwards disposed of.

Black Cattle.—The Hereford breed of cattle is reckoned the largest in England, weighing from 70 to 100 stone, 14 lb. to the stone. They are of a redish colour, have horns of a moderate length, and are handsome in the form. The cows give from 16 to 20 quarts of milk in the day, and of a remarkable rich quality.

Sheep.—The native sheep of this county, frequently called the Ryeland breed, from having been formerly pastured on a part of the county which was thought incapable of producing any other kind of grain, are of a small size, weighing, when fat only from 12 lb. to 18 lb. the quarter. They have no horns, are white in their faces and legs, and carry fine short wool.

SALOP.

Situation and Extent.—Salop or Shropshire is bounded on the south by Hereford and Worcester; on the east, by Stafford; on the north, by Cheshire; and on the west, by Denbeigh, Montgomery, and Radnor. It is of an oval form,

form, measuring 40 miles in length, and about 35 in breadth.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—Shropshire, in regard to surface and general appearance, is not materially different from some of the adjoining counties in Wales. The soil, like that in all mountainous districts, is extremely various, consisting of all the different sorts, from the strongest clay to the lightest gravel, but light loams are more general than any of the others.

The principal agricultural productions consist of grain, cattle, cheese, wool and hops; which last are cultivated in the south side of the county towards the borders of Herefordshire.

Forests and Woodlands.—Considering the extent of this county, the proportion of woodlands is by no means considerable, which is partly accounted for, by the elevated and exposed situation of the district, which is unfavourable to the growth of wood. It is, however, probable, that the woods still remaining, added to the stock of timber in the hedge-rows, is sufficient for all necessary purposes within the county.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—Shrewsbury is the capital, and is a place of considerable trade, particularly for Welsh woollen goods, which are regularly carried there for sale every week. Ludlow, Oswestry, Ellesmere, &c. are market-towns, but of little note. This county
abounds

abounds with coal, lead, iron-stone, &c. and at Colebrook dale, one of the largest iron-works in England is erected; in which every part of the process, from digging the iron-stone, to completing the various articles of manufacture, is carried on.

Live Stock, Horses.—This county is not remarkable for its breed of horses, or for the numbers reared. Stafford, Derby, and Leicester, are the counties which principally furnish the Shropshire farmers with the horses which they occasionally require to keep up their ordinary stock.

Black Cattle.—There are great numbers annually bred and reared. The breed is for the most part the long-horned Lancashire sort, which, by the attention of many of the more respectable farmers, in purchasing bulls and cows of the better kinds from Leicester and Lancashire, has greatly improved the county breed. As ploughing with oxen is a very common practice in Shropshire, and as the county is neither populous, nor rich in manufactures, a great many lean oxen are annually disposed of; these are, for the most part, bought by the Leicester and Northampton graziers.

Sheep.—If this county cannot boast of the excellence of its breeds of sheep, it may justly claim the merit of being possessed of a greater variety

variety than is to be found in any county in Great Britain. Indeed, besides the native breeds, there may be said to be other five not only introduced, but to have become general in some one part or other of the district, *viz.* those of Lincoln, Leicester, Hereford, Derby, and Wilts, to which might be added a long list of crosses between these and the original sorts.

W A L E S.

This district having, since its conquest by Edward I. in the year 1282, given the title of Prince of Wales to the heir apparent of the English Crown, is generally denominated the principality of Wales. It is inhabited by the descendents of the ancient Britains, that brave and warlike race, who, rather than submit to the Saxon yoke, chose to retire and enjoy freedom in this remote, and at that time almost inaccessible part of the island. The inhabitants still retain their original language, and the manners and customs of the lower people differ materially from those common in the other parts of Great Britain.

This

This country is divided into South and North Wales, and again subdivided into twelve counties, of which *Glamorgan, Brecknock, Carmarthen, Pembroke, Cardigan, and Radnor*, compose South Wales, and *Montgomery, Merioneth, Caernarvon, Denbigh, Flint, and Anglesey*, belong to the Northern division.

Situation and Extent.—Wales, which occupies all the central part of the west coast of England, is bounded on the north by the Irish Sea and Cheshire; on the east, by Hereford and Shropshires; on the south, by Monmouth and the Bristol Channel; and on the west, by St George's Channel. Its form is very irregular, being in many places indented by arms of the sea, in so much, that, except Radnor, Montgomery, and Brecknock, all the counties are, to a greater or less extent, bounded by friths, bays, and channels.

Its extreme length from north to south is about 150 miles, and its extreme breadth upwards of 100.

Surface, Soil, and Mode of Occupation.—Wales is remarkably diversified in surface, and general aspect. Every county is more or less incumbered with hills and mountains; many of which, although internally rich and valuable, on account of the mines and minerals which they contain, must ever remain externally barren and unproductive, beyond affording a coarse scanty
pasturage

pasturage for a few sheep and goats. Several of the interjacent vallies are of considerable extent ; and being fertilized by the numerous rivers which run in various directions, and ornamented in many places with woods and plantations, tend to soften the otherwise rugged appearance of the scene.

The soil of this extensive district is very various, including the extremes of good and bad, with all the intermediate gradations.

In the vallies, the soil is either clay, or a fertile loam, on a substratum of gravel, or a flaty kind of rock.

On the higher grounds or uplands, a loam of a lighter texture, on a rocky bottom, is the most common. Where the substratum is clay or brick-earth, a stronger loam prevails, which is, however, frequently so wet and spouty, as to render cultivation difficult and expensive.

Higher up on the sides of the hills, the soil becomes lighter, being blended with moss, or peat-earth, generally on a bed of clay, and which being naturally very retentive of water, is comparatively of little value.

The prevailing soil in the mountainous parts of the district, is moss, which is principally useful as fuel, no attempts having been hitherto made to convert it either into arable or valuable pasture land. Including such lands, as although
capable

capable of improvement, are at present waste, by much the greatest proportion of Wales is in a state of natural pasturage. Great numbers of sheep and goats, and also many horses and black cattle, although of inferior size and value, are bred and reared on the hills and mountains. Several of the mountains also contain mines of lead and copper ore; calamine and sulphur are also procured in great quantities, and exported, to a very large amount.

The most common mode in which the arable lands are occupied, is a mixture of tillage and pasture. The pastures are chiefly employed in breeding and rearing black cattle and horses; but in some counties, the dairy-husbandry is carried on to a considerable extent, and large quantities of butter and cheese are exported annually to London, Bristol, and other markets.

The crops for the most part cultivated are oats and barley; they are often sown alternately for a series of years; and when the land becomes exhausted, it is either laid down with a small quantity of grass-seeds, or allowed to lie in pasture, yielding only such grasses, or rather weeds, as are natural to a worn-out soil. A succession of oats after oats, for a number of years, is also a method of cropping too commonly followed. Wheat and pease are also pretty generally cultivated to a certain extent on most farms, but by

no

no means in a manner calculated to yield the greatest returns.

Notwithstanding the obstacles which retard the agricultural improvement of Wales*, the general mode of management is of late years considerably altered for the better. The use of fallow, turnips, and artificial grasses, begins to be understood by the tenants at large; and were these bars removed, and proper encouragement given, that sloth and indolence which now possesses their minds would disappear, and a spirit for improving their own situations would in time operate the improvement of the country.

This account of the present state of agriculture in Wales will not, however, apply in every case. Although the absurd and improper management, before described, still continues to be too generally practised, yet there are many proprietors, and some intelligent farmers in every county, who, convinced of the advantages resulting from pursuing better modes of husbandry, have adopted regular rotations of cropping, by which fallow, wheat, green crops, and artificial grasses, have been not only introduced, but established as part of the system.

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Forests

* Among which may be reckoned the want of leases, proper accommodation in regard to houses, with the small size of farms, and the payment of tithes in kind.

Forests and Woodlands.—Wales was in former times one universal forest ; and there is no country in the island which produces better oak timber, or trees of a larger size, than are to be found there.

The old woodlands and coppices, although nowhere extensive, are dispersed over the greatest part of the district in considerable numbers. These are, however, so neglected by the proprietors, on the one hand, or destroyed by the farmer's ax on the other, that they are falling very rapidly into decay, and without any attention being paid to supply the deficiency by new plantations. In a word, it may be said there is little wood in Wales ; that little is every day becoming less ; and what remains, is so totally neglected, that unless the proprietors will fence their woods and coppices, and promote their growth by every means in their power, the inhabitants must in a few years be reduced to the necessity of importing timber for house-building, and carrying on the ordinary operations of husbandry.

In such parts of the country as attention has been paid to the woodlands, their thriving state shew how well adapted the soil and climate are to the growth of trees ; and as there are many thousand acres which can be improved more effectually by planting, than by any other means, it is hoped the apparent scarcity of timber, which

is now become so evident, will awaken the proprietors to a proper sense of their misconduct, and induce them, not only to protect the remaining woodlands, but also to add to the number, by forming plantations on all such grounds as can be most beneficially employed in rearing a supply of this necessary article.

Towns, Manufactures, and Commerce.—In describing the towns, manufactures, and commerce, of this extensive district, it may be proper to give an account of those in each county separately, beginning with

Glamorgan.—The county-town is Cardiff, situated near the mouth of the river Taafé, and enjoying a share of the coasting trade, particularly with Bristol. Swansea is the greatest commercial town in Glamorganshire. It has a considerable trade to Bristol, and great quantities of coals are shipped from thence to Ireland, and the south-west coast of England.

Large works are also erected in the neighbourhood, for smelting lead and copper ores. Landaff, Neath, Carphilly, and Cowbridge, are situated in this county; but they possess neither trade nor manufactures of any consequence.

Brecknock.—There are four market-towns in this county, Brecknock (the capital), Crickhowel, Hay, and Builth; but except the working of coarse worsted stockings, which affords employment to the poorer people, there are no manufactures

manufactures or commerce of any kind, which is in a great measure owing to its inland situation.

Carmarthen.—The market towns of Carmarthenshire, are Carmarthen, Kidwelly, Llanelly, Laugharne, Llandovery, Llandilo, and Newcastle-Emlyn.

The four first mentioned, are sea-ports, from whence considerable quantities of coals are exported. In the neighbourhood of Llandovery are valuable lead-mines; there are also iron furnaces and forges erected, which give employment to great numbers of people. Some manufactures of stockings, and other woollen goods are carried on, but to no great extent.

Pembroke.—The principal towns are Pembroke, Haverfordwest, Tenby, Newport, and Fishgard; which, being all situated near bays or navigable rivers, have some coasting trade, and export coals, culm, and other articles to Ireland, and different parts of England. There are some iron and tin works, which give constant employment to a number of people; but the manufactures are inconsiderable.

Cardigan.—Besides the county-town of Cardigan, Aberistwyth and Rhosfair, are the most considerable; but none of them are of any note; and except some iron and tin works adjoining to the former, there is scarcely any trade or manufactures in the district. The poor people

ple are in a great measure without employment, and forced to live on very ordinary fare.

Radnor.—This county, like that of Cardigan, is destitute of manufactures. New Radnor, Presteign, and Knighton, are the chief towns, but they possess little trade.

Montgomery.—Montgomery is a small town, as are Newton, Llanidloes and Machynlleth, each have some share in the manufacture of flannels, and other woollen goods. Welshpool is a considerable town, at which the flannels and other woollen stuffs made in the neighbourhood, are for the most part disposed. This county has little coasting trade, and no foreign commerce.

Merioneth.—Harlech is the capital, but a poor insignificant place. Barmouth is the only seaport, and carries on a pretty extensive coasting trade. The other towns are Dolgellhen, Bala, and Dinasmouthwy. Flannels, stockings, and other woollen goods, are manufactured to a considerable extent.

Caernarvon.—The towns in this county are neither large nor populous. Caernarvon, Bangor, and Aberconway, are the principal. Large quantities of wool are manufactured into flannels and coarse cloths, but for the most part in the farmers families. Slates are exported to several parts of England and Ireland, to a very considerable amount, forming the chief article of trade from this county.

Denbeigh.

Denbeigh.—The town of Denbeigh, at which the assizes are held, possesses a considerable trade in the manufacture of shoes and gloves, which are commonly sent to London. Wrexham, one of the largest towns in Wales, is situated in this county; it is a place of considerable trade, there being several iron forges, and a foundery for cannon in the neighbourhood. Sundry kinds of woollen goods are manufactured to a pretty large extent, and in the same manner as is practised in the county of Caernarvon.

Flint.—The capital of the county is Flint, a small town, and although a sea-port, without trade. Holywell is a place of some consequence, being situated in the neighbourhood of several calamine mines, and having some manufactures. The other towns of St Asaph, Mould, &c. are of little importance, either in an agricultural or commercial view. The mineral productions however are very valuable, and furnish employment to numbers of people. Brass, lead, calamine, and coals, are exported in considerable quantities. Some cotton-works, potteries, and woollen stuffs, are the only manufactures of Flintshire; these are at present conducted on a small scale, but are said to be on the increase.

Anglesey.—Amlioch is a small sea-port town, and carries on the chief trade of the island of Anglesey, which consists in exporting the copper ore, sulphur, &c. found in the mountains.

Beaumaris

Beaumaris is the county-town; but neither it nor Newburgh have any trade. Holyhead is only remarkable as being a station for the packet-boats to and from Dublin. Anglesey is destitute of manufactures.

Live Stock, Horses.—The original breed is small, measuring only from 10 to 13 or 14 hands, and consequently under the proper size for the team. The Welsh horses are however active, hardy, and remarkably sure footed, properties which render them very saleable all over England. Attempts have been made by some gentlemen in different parts of Wales, to improve the breed by the introduction of blood horses; but in every instance without success. In several of the better cultivated districts, the breed of horses has been greatly improved, by being crossed with the stout draught horses of some of the adjoining English counties; but till better systems of agriculture become common, any general improvement in this respect is not likely to take place. By the present management, or rather mismanagement, the young horses are for the most part starved and checked in their growth, for want of proper food, and requisite attention.

Black Cattle.—Except in the mountainous districts, the rearing and breeding of black cattle is the principal object, these constituting the most valuable stock which the farmers possess. Very great numbers are annually sold at the fairs in
the

the country, either to English graziers, who attend for the purpose, or to dealers, who make a trade of disposing of them in the southern and eastern counties of England. The native breed, especially in the vicinity of the mountains, is small, but extremely hardy, being inured to struggle both with cold and hunger. When put on richer pastures, they evince a disposition to fatten quickly, and are therefore in much request, selling at high prices, according to their size. Cattle of this description seldom weigh, when fat, above forty stone of fourteen pounds English.

- In the vallies and more fertile parts of the country, the cattle are of a larger size; and by the introduction of bulls from Hereford, Lancaster, and other counties, considerable improvements have been effected; and although the practice of introducing the more improved breeds of other districts, is by no means common, yet it may be said to be daily gaining ground.

Sheep.—The sheep which range on the mountains are small, weighing from eight to twelve pounds *per* quarter, and carrying a light short fleece, from a pound and a half to two pounds weight. They possess naturally a wild roving disposition, which renders it very difficult to keep them within ordinary fences.

In

In many of those parts of the country where inclosures have been formed, and better modes of cultivation adopted, considerable pains have been bestowed to improve the breed, by purchasing tups from Leiceſter, Hereford, Glouceſter, Dorſet, Suffex, and other parts of England. A meaſure which has already been attended with ſuch ſucceſs, as to have raiſed the ſize of the carcaſe and weight of the wool to nearly double that of the mountain breed, while the animal is in a great meaſure changed in its nature, being quiet, docile, and eaſily domeſticated. Theſe are circumſtances, which, conſidering the great annual revenue that this country draws from the ſale of ſheep into England, ought to rouse the moſt torpid inhabitant of Wales. A proper attention to the further improvement of this valuable ſpecies of ſtock, if perſevered in, cannot fail eventually to promote the future intereſts, and proſperity of the country.

§ 1

Observations

*Observations regarding the Manner in which the
Lands are employed or occupied.*

IN addition to the foregoing geographical and agricultural sketch of each county or district in the island, it is proposed to give an account of the manner in which the lands of these kingdoms were and are occupied; whereby the British farmer may be enabled to form some idea respecting the former and present state of his native country, as far as agriculture and its productions are concerned.

As several of the subjects to be now mentioned, will not again be treated of in the course of this work, a particular detail, in some cases, will, it is presumed, be deemed pertinent.

The following arrangement into general heads, which, with the after subdivisions, are made to embrace every subject intended to be discussed, has been made choice of as the most perspicuous: At the same time, it may be proper to premise, that it is only proposed, at present, to give an account of the different modes in which the
lands

lands are employed, and a general description of the division of the lands into arable, pasture, woodlands, &c. without specifying the advantages or disadvantages of the present distribution, or whether the modes of occupation are the most profitable, or the best adapted to the different soils and situations.

Sect. I. Manors, parks, or pleasure-grounds, gardens, and orchards.

II. Manner in which the lands of England are employed or occupied.

III. Manner in which the lands of Scotland are employed or occupied.

SEC.

SECTION I.

*Manors, Parks, or Pleasure-grounds, Gardens,
and Orchards.*

IN regard to the disposition, arrangement, and mode in which manors, parks, &c. are occupied, there is so striking a similarity in England and Scotland, that one description will be sufficient for both kingdoms.

The Romans do not seem to have possessed a taste for gardening, in any other view than as a matter of utility ; at least none of their writers on husbandry make mention of a garden as an ornamented park or farm, but only with respect to its productions of herbs and fruits.

For many ages after the introduction of the feudal system into these kingdoms, the great proprietors chiefly studied the art of war, and trained up their followers and dependents to the same profession. Their castles were constructed and used as places of defence, and the improvement of their manors, if at all attended to, was considered only as a secondary object, and generally performed by slaves. In consequence of the abolition of that system, the introduction of the arts, and the influx of wealth which has taken

ken place from almost every quarter, the number of manors has greatly increased, and several of them have been completed with that style of elegance, that if allowance be made for the difference of climate, they may rank with many of those in the more favoured parts of Europe.

Ornamental gardening, in its utmost extent, has been lately brought to great perfection in this island. It is not now confined to the spots which are properly denominated gardens; but, as a writer on that subject observes, "regulates also the disposition and embellishments of a park, a farm, a forest, &c.; and the business of a gardener is to select and apply whatever is great, elegant, or characteristic in any of them; to discover, and to shew all the advantages of the place upon which he is employed; to supply its defects; to correct its faults; and to improve its beauties."

The lands now occupied as manors are, for the most part, devoted to pasturage; and, from the very high course of culture which they generally undergo before they are laid out in grass, may naturally be expected to yield rich pasturage, and are consequently, in a national point of view, profitably and usefully employed. The remainder is either laid out in gardens, or orchards, or in ornamental and useful plantations.

Gardens, in the limited sense, are commonly distinguished into flower-garden, fruit-garden, and

and kitchen-garden. The first is occupied in producing every species of flowers and shrubs that can be brought to vegetate in the climate of this country. The second is stored with all the different kinds of fruit-trees and bushes, as apple, pear, cherry, plumb, peach, apricot, gooseberry, raspberry, currant, &c. and in the kitchen-garden are to be seen almost every plant and herb of the vegetable kingdom.

Orchards are grounds set apart for the growth of standard fruit-trees.—At what period the planting of fruit-trees was first introduced into Great Britain does not appear; but besides the orchards belonging to the manors, several thousand acres are now occupied in this way, in various parts of the island. Apple and pear trees are chiefly planted. The counties in England, most remarkable for the number and extent of orchards, are Hereford, Gloucester and Devon. In these districts the cultivation of fruit, for the purpose of making cyder and perry, forms a considerable branch of rural oeconomy.

There are also some extensive orchards entirely of cherry-trees. These are principally in Kent, and in some of the other counties adjacent to London; to which market the fruit is regularly sent, and in immense quantities.

The most extensive orchards in Scotland, are those along the banks of the Clyde in Lanarkshire, and in the Carle of Gowrie in the county
of

of Perth. The fruit meets a ready sale in the different cities and manufacturing towns; but few or no attempts have hitherto been made to convert any of it into cyder or perry.

In some counties, it is common to have the foil of the orchards in tillage; in others, in grafs. These different modes of management are, in general, regulated by the nature of the foil and situation.

SEC.

SECTION II.

Manner in which the Lands in England are employed or occupied.

THE manner in which the lands in the two kingdoms are now divided and employed is, in many cases, so very different, (although at a former period the same), that in order to give a Scottish reader a more clear idea of the way in which the open field lands of England are still occupied, it may be proper to explain the ancient mode of division of manors

A manor was an estate in land, held by a Lord or great proprietor, who generally parcelled it out in the following manner :

1. *Demesnes or Demains.*—These were lands around their castles, which they kept in their own possession, and which were either cultivated by the Lord's vassals, or by hired servants. The demains were held in fealty, or separate from the tenants, or, as they are frequently called, the tenantry-lands.

2. *Book Lands or Charter Lands,*—were such parts of the manor as the proprietor gave to particular favourites in perpetuity, subject, howe-

ver, to the payment of a certain rent, or the performance of certain services.

3. *Folk Lands*.—These were parts of the manor, which were held by no assurance in writing, but distributed among the folk or common people at the pleasure of the Lord or proprietor, and resumed at his discretion.

4. *Waste Lands*.—The residue of the manor being uncultivated, was termed the Lord's Waste, and served for public roads, and for common pasturage to the proprietor's cattle, and those of the other inhabitants of the manor, lordship, or parish.

In describing the modes in which the lands of England are at present occupied, it is proposed to class them into five divisions, which, with the manors, taken notice of in the preceding section, will be found to comprehend the whole.

Open field lands,
Inclosed lands,
Commons,
Wastes,
Forests, woodlands, and plantations.

Open Field Lands.—The open field or uninclosed parishes in England, have undergone very little alteration, in regard to the mode of occupation, for ages. From what is mentioned above,

relating to the ancient distribution of manors, may be inferred the origin of what is now known in England by the name of open, or common field lands; and in Scotland, by that of run-ridge. The scattered situation, and smallness of the pieces of common field lands still frequently cultivated by one person, (in many instances fifty or a hundred acres, situated in nearly as many different places), evince, first, that the mode of division, considering the then state of the nation, was a matter of sound policy; because, till about the close of the ninth century, when England was divided into tithings and hundreds, there seems to have been no law, but that of the sword, for the protection of private property; hence, every inhabitant of the parish or township, by having a common interest in the parish-fields, in case of any invasion, became bound by the strongest tie (self-interest) to associate with his neighbours, in order to repel the foe*. And, in the second place, it is also clear, that the occupiers began with cultivating small spots, an acre, or perhaps less; and as population increased, and
bread

* Such depredations as are here alluded to, were committed in the county of Moray, in Scotland, so late as the beginning of the present century. The people in the highland districts, frequently making incursions into Morayland, where, according to their account, *every man was free to take his prey.*

bread-corn became scarce, they gradually increased their tillage-lands *. Those parts of the parish which were either unimprovable, or at too great a distance from home, were partly reserved for the purpose of supplying fuel, pit-coal, if at all known, being only in common use in a few places. The remainder was allotted for the common pasturage of the parish-cattle, which were, by mutual agreement, kept there during summer and harvest; after which they were allowed to range at large over the arable lands till the return of spring.

It ought also to be observed, that a certain portion of the manor or estate was set apart for the purpose of producing natural or meadow grass, to be made into hay. This meadow was divided among the farmers, in proportion to the extent of their farms, either by lot or some kind of understood agreement. The cattle were excluded by mutual consent at a certain period in the spring, and it remained *shut*, as it is now termed, till hay-harvest was completed; after which, the cattle were suffered to pasture during the remainder of the season.

It is astonishing, that in such a length of time, as from the original distribution of manors in England,

* Hence the origin of outfield lands in Scotland, in contradistinction to infields, or fields adjoining to the townships.

England, to the present period, so little alteration should have taken place in regard to the mode of occupying those lands which remain in the open or common field state ; more especially, when it is considered, that during this long interval, a spirit for agricultural improvements seems, at different periods, to have become pretty general.

It would be improper here to go into a minute detail of the various modes in which the cultivated lands in the open field parishes in England are occupied. It need only be observed, that previous to the introduction of turnips and artificial grasses, the almost universal practice was, to have three-fourths in grain, and one-fourth in fallow ; and although in some places alterations have taken place, yet the instances are very rare.

The arable lands are divided into four fields as nearly equal as possible, and each of these fields, (however many tenants may have an interest in the cultivation), must, by the established rules, be wholly under the same kind of crop. This, added to the practice of pasturing their cattle in common, will for ever prevent the general introduction of artificial grasses, or indeed almost any other species of improvement, till such time, as, either by the mutual consent of all concerned, or the intervention of the Legislature, the system is entirely abolished.

Inclosed

Inclosed Lands.—It was mentioned in the introduction, that the practice of inclosing lands first became general in England about the year 1450. Since that period, and in proportion to the gradual advances of improvements in agriculture, acts of Parliament have been obtained, for inclosing particular parishes or districts; so that probably upwards of two-thirds of all the tillage-lands, in that kingdom, are now in a state of inclosure. Of these, by much the greatest proportion may be called old inclosures.

Although, in all the old inclosed parts of the country, a portion of the lands is occupied in raising alternate crops of grain and grass; yet by much the largest share is in a state of pasturage, which is chiefly owing to the invincible aversion which the proprietors have to permit old grass-grounds to be broken up.

In some counties, as Gloucester, Cheshire, Suffolk, and part of Wiltshire, where the dairy-husbandry, on a large scale, more generally prevails, the old inclosures are chiefly pastured by cows.

In the counties where large cities and populous towns are situated, particularly in those within reach of the great London market, the old inclosures are principally employed in the fattening cattle and sheep, and in carrying on such systems of dairy-husbandry, as, according to the situation of the farm, in regard to markets,

kets, are considered the most profitable. On almost every farm of this description, a breeding stock of sheep, to a certain extent, is kept.

In those districts, more remote from the London and other great markets, and where, of consequence, the rents of lands are more moderate, breeding and rearing horses, black cattle, and sheep, is the system most generally practised. These, when arrived at a proper age, are sold into other districts; where, after being kept for a year or two, they are either disposed of in some of the great markets of the kingdom, and in those of particular districts, or to supply the necessary stock of those counties where grazing or fattening is more practised than that of breeding or rearing.

In those parishes, which have been more recently inclosed, an alternate course of corn and grass husbandry, is the system most generally adopted. The extent of grass-lands on these farms, depends on the rotation of cropping prescribed. In some places, the fields are only continued one year in grass; in others two; and in some three. The first year, the crop is made into hay; and so long afterwards as the land remains in grass, it is pastured by the stock on the farm, consisting of horses, cattle, and sheep; and on these farms, a certain number of cattle and sheep is bred, and frequently two or three young horses.

Commons.

Commons. — In all the open field parishes, where the same arrangement continues as was at first established, there is a considerable extent of common field allotted for the pasturage of the live stock belonging to the inhabitants. These, as has been already observed, consist of such lands as are less fit for the plough, or more distant from the town or village.

The parish commons are for the most part divided into three fields; one for the pasturage of the horses; another for the neat cattle; and the third for the sheep. The horses are generally tended by one of the farmer's servants. The whole of the sheep belonging to the parish are put under the charge of a common shepherd, who is hired at the general expence; and the cows and young cattle are cared for nearly in a similar manner.

When the inhabitants of several adjoining parishes possess rights of common pasturage in an extensive common, as is frequently the case, particularly in the counties of Middlesex, Surry, Northampton, and other districts in the middle and south parts of the kingdom, the whole horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, &c. which are sent to the commons, are committed to the care of one or more persons, appointed for the purpose. In some cases, the right is limited; or, as it is called, *stinted*. When that is the case, such a number of cattle only, as the straw and hay, grow-
ing

ing on the farms, will maintain in winter, is permitted to pasture these commons in summer. And therefore each farmer is, by particular laws, prevented from sending above a certain number, which is regulated, partly by the extent of his farm, and in some cases by the title on which he claims a right of commonage.

When the common is unfenced; or, in other words, where the farmers possess a right of pasturing any number and species of live stock, which they chuse to send, and without restraint of any kind, the value of such right is considered by many farmers as so inconsiderable, as not to be worthy of their attention. Such farmers as possess improved breeds of horses, cattle, and sheep, seldom, if ever, send any of them to be pastured on the commons, whether fenced or unfenced. They generally dispose of their right, for a trifle, to some neighbouring farmers or dealers, who have no objection, in the view of profit, of running the risk of their cattle meeting with accidents, or being infected with diseases, as must naturally be expected to happen on these extensive commons, where so many cattle are promiscuously collected.

Waste Lands.—Almost the whole commonable lands of England are in a state of nature, susceptible, however, of cultivation, or improvement, by planting, but of very little value in their

their present condition, and therefore may, with much propriety, be denominated waste lands. But the waste lands here to be taken notice of are the mountainous and hilly parts of the kingdom ; which, though partly improvable by planting, can only be made more productive, in a national point of view, by pursuing proper methods to fit them better for the purpose to which they are presently applied, namely, that of pasturage. The waste lands of this description comprehend large tracts in several counties, particularly in those of Wales, and the north and west of England. These are, in general, occupied in the pasturage of sheep. Young cattle and horses are also reared upon them in considerable numbers. In some places, where the distance from pit-coal renders that article difficult to be procured, a great proportion of the inhabitants is supplied with fuel from the peat-mosses, with which these wastes abound.

Forests, Woodlands, and Plantations.— This kingdom, like every other capable of producing trees, is described in the earliest accounts of it, to have been covered with wood. Even so late as the reign of William the Conqueror, the woods were so numerous, as to be valued, not for the quantity of timber, or of what could be annually felled ; but by the number of swine which the acorns could maintain. Since that period,

however, the increasing prosperity of the country, by means of the introduction of arts, manufactures, and commerce, and its progressive advancement in population and industry, rendered an extension of tillage and pasture necessary; consequently, a gradual diminution of forests, woodlands and timber has taken place.

A great proportion of the ancient woodlands now remaining, was formerly royal forests and chases, which were considered and maintained chiefly as places of sport for our Kings, and were, and still are subject to laws and regulations peculiar to themselves, but which seem to have been intended more for the protection of the deer, and the regulation of the rights to common pasturage, enjoyed by the inhabitants, within the verge, or adjoining to these forests, than for the increase and preservation of the timber.

The very improvident, and often ill defined grants made by the Crown, either to gratify the favourites of the Monarch, or to reward those who had distinguished themselves in the service of the public, have tended greatly to diminish the extent of these forests. While the confused mixture of interests under which they are possessed, has the worst effects on the property itself, and has rendered the remaining royal forests comparatively of little value.

The

The royal forests still remaining in possession of the Crown are the following, *viz.*

New Forest,	} in Hampshire.
Alice holt and Woolmer,	
Bere forest,	
Whittelwood or Whittlebury,	} in Northamp- tonshire.
Salcey,	
Shuleyhay walk in Rockingham forest,	
Wattnam, or Epping forest, in Essex.	
Sherwood forest, in Nottinghamshire.	
Whichwood forest, in Oxfordshire.	
Dean forest, in Gloucestershire.	

These forests contain 115,594 acres; besides which, there are numerous woods and plantations dispersed through the kingdom, which once belonged wholly to the Crown, but had been granted to individuals, with a reservation of the timber growing therein.

It has been observed, that different persons have separate, and, it may be added, opposite interests in these forests; indeed, such diversity is there in the grants, claims, and reservations, that scarcely two of them are possessed under the same kind of tenure.

In general, however, the timber, and a right of pasturing a certain number of deer, belong to the Crown. The underwood, which consists chiefly of oak, fallow, black and white thorn, maple, &c. had been granted to persons of various

rious descriptions; but commonly to the principal officers of the forests, or to individuals who possess estates adjoining to their ancient limits. The herbage is subject not only to the pasturage of the deer, as above mentioned, but also of the cattle belonging to those who reside in the adjoining townships, and who from time immemorial, possessed a right of commonage in all the forests belonging to the Crown.

To the above list of royal forests, the following may be added, as they fall under the notice of the general surveyor of his Majesty's woods and forests.

Windfor Forest and Cranbourne Chase,	} in Berkshire.
Windfor Great Park,	
Windfor Little Park,	
Richmond Park, in Surry.	
St James's Park,	} in Middlesex.
Hyde Park,	
Bulhey Park,	
Hampton Court Park,	
Greenwich Park, in Kent.	

These, however, may be considered as parks, chafes, and pleasure-grounds connected with those places where the Sovereigns occasionally reside, rather than forests set apart for the growth of timber.

There is a description of woodlands in England, which is unknown in the other kingdom, namely,

Purlew

Parlew Woods.—These at some former period were parts of the royal forests; but the respective owners, having obtained grants from the Crown, and permission to disforest them, and not being now subject to any of the laws and regulations by which the different interests in forest-woods are regulated, may be considered to all intents and purposes as private property. In regard to the mode in which these woodlands are occupied, it is exactly similar to that of many of the royal forests, except in regard to the right of pasturage, and on that account much more productive.

The great devastation committed on the ancient forests in every part of the kingdom, during the long continued civil wars between the houses of York and Lancaster, produced a great scarcity of oak-timber, and first excited that spirit for planting, which became general among all ranks of proprietors after the Restoration; and which appears to have continued till towards the end of the last century. The good effects of this have become very conspicuous in the present times; as it is presumed that the immense quantities of oak-timber consumed by our navy in the present reign, were chiefly the produce of the plantations made between the periods above mentioned. That this is a fact, appears from the account given in by the Commissioners of the navy, to the Commissioners appointed

pointed to enquire into the state and condition of the land revenues of the Crown, in which it is stated, that on an average of 20 years preceding 1788, only 2000 loads of timber were annually supplied from the royal forests*, while 23,000 loads, were annually purchased from individuals in the kingdom.

The only other remains of ancient woodlands, are those numerous tracts of coppices which abound in the vallies, and along the banks of the rivers and streams on the western side of the kingdom.

These are generally cut (as the underwood in the forests are) when from 12 to 18 years old, according to the quality of the soil on which they grow.—The purposes to which the wood is applied, are chiefly that of being burned into charcoal, for the use of the numerous iron founderies erected in that part of the country; or made into hoops for the supply of the great trading towns. But a great proportion of these coppices, as well as of the underwoods in the other parts of the kingdom,

* If the royal forests contain 115,594 acres, and only furnish 2000 loads of timber, their annual value to the nation, estimating the 2000 loads at the ordinary and established price for navy timber, does not exceed 15*d.* or 16*d.* *per acre.*

dom, is also converted into many domestic purposes.

The modern plantations are neither numerous, nor extensive; some few in the northern parts of the kingdom excepted, where a spirit for planting seems to gain ground.

It is impossible to ascertain the extent of the woodlands and plantations in the kingdom. An excellent plan was attempted to be carried into execution by the Commissioners of the Navy about the year 1770, for ascertaining the quantity of timber growing on private estates in England, by an actual survey; but they were interrupted by the proprietors, before they had got through the second county. This was a most unfortunate circumstance. For had this very sensible and judicious measure been carried into effect, the nation at large would have been informed of the real situation in which it stood, in regard to a stock of that valuable, necessary, nay indispensable article,—oak-timber; by which alone not only the commerce of Great Britain can be carried on, but also its natural bulwarks, (the Royal Navy), repaired and enlarged.

It may however be observed, that England is certainly a more wooded country in appearance, than in reality. The almost universal practice of planting hedge-row trees round all the old inclosed fields, while it tended to shelter the inclosures,

clofures, and add greatly to their beauty and ornament, conveys at the same time the idea of a more liberal store of wood, than (except in some particular counties) there is really to be found.

SEC-

SECTION III.

Manner in which the Lands of Scotland are employed or occupied.

In the preceding account of England, notice has been taken of the original distribution of manors; and therefore it is intended to class what remains to be said in regard to the modes in which the lands of Scotland were, and are now occupied, under the following heads:

Ancient mode of Occupation.

Improved ditto.

Woods and Plantations.

Ancient Mode of Occupation.—The manner in which the arable lands of this kingdom were formerly occupied, and which is but too closely adhered to in many remote districts in the present times, is, if possible, still more reprehensible than the open field husbandry practised in England.

Before the year 1748, the few improvements in agriculture, that had been introduced, were confined to the south-east part of the kingdom, and scarcely any of them had found their way

north of the frith of Forth. In those days, the arable lands on every farm were divided into what were called infield and outfield. The infield consisted of that part nearest to the farm-houses, to which the whole manure was regularly applied. The only crops cultivated, were oats, bear or big, with a small quantity of pease and beans; and the lands were kept under tillage so long as they produced two or three returns of the seeds sown. When a field became so reduced, and so full of weeds, as not to be capable of yielding even this return, it was allowed to lie in natural pasture for some years, after which it was again broken up, and treated in the same manner as before mentioned.

The outfields were wasted by a succession of oats after oats, so long as the crops would pay for seed and labour; and when completely exhausted, by over cropping, they were allowed to remain in a state of absolute sterility, till after having been rested, and having obtained a sward, the cattle were pastured thereon for some years. These being folded every night on a particular part of the field during the summer season, that part was regularly broken up next spring for oats, and by following the plan of management before described, a few scanty crops were again obtained.

While this mode of management was general in the low, or cultivated parts of Scotland; the
mountains

mountains and hills, and many of the vallies, were occupied in breeding and rearing great numbers of small horses and cattle, and a few goats and sheep. It was the general practice of the inhabitants of those vallies, where cultivation had been introduced, to remove with their cows and other stock, after the seed-time was over, to some distant deep uncultivated valley, where they resided in small huts, called *sheelings*, and there fed their flocks for some months in the summer. From whence they returned to their usual habitations in proper time to reap their crops.

In those times also, before the introduction of artificial grasses, and when the practice of plowing with eight or ten oxen, in place of two horses, (as is the modern method), was almost universal in the more extensively cultivated parts of the kingdom, it was very common for the farmers to send their oxen and young cattle to be pastured in those glens or vallies, for which they paid a certain sum, from 1 s. to 1 s. 8 d. each. The cattle were generally sent to those vallies about the beginning of June, and were brought home about the middle of September. On these occasions, the owner of the cattle stood the risk of their accidental, as well as their natural death; and if he who received the premium (or *grass-mail*, as it was called), returned the hide and horn of the cattle that died,

died, he was exonerated; but if he failed to do so, it was presumed they had been either stolen, or otherwise lost by his carelessness, and therefore he became liable in payment of the value.

This system of grazing, miserable as it is, still continues to be practised in the Highland parts of several of the western and northern counties, as in Argyle, Perth, Aberdeen, Banff, Moray, Nairn, Inverness, Ross, Cromarty, Sutherland, Caithness, Orkney, Shetland, and the Hebrides. It ought to be observed, however, that potatoes, which is an ameliorating crop, has been very generally introduced into all these districts, and that turnips and artificial grasses are begun to be partially used.

It is probable, that the following is pretty nearly the proportion in which the different species of crops are cultivated in those districts where improvements in agriculture have not become general.

- Three ninths in oats.
- One ninth in bear or big.
- One ninth in pease, flax, potatoes, turnips, and artificial grasses.
- Four ninths in natural grass.

While the feudal system existed, the above was the most general mode in which the lands in this kingdom were occupied. During that period,

riod, the great proprietors were either so much engaged in rebellions against the State, or in waging war against one another, that improvements in agriculture were totally neglected; and although some individuals, even in these troublesome times, regarded the due cultivation of the soil, as an object of the greatest national importance, yet it does not appear, that agriculture had made any great progress for some centuries.

At the close of the last rebellion, or rather about the 1748, when the great proprietors (happily for themselves and their successors, as well as for the country at large) turned their attention from war, and began to cultivate the arts of peace; they soon discovered, that in consequence of the abolition of the payment of tithes in kind, and of two acts of Parliament, (which will be further explained hereafter), they had it completely in their power to divide and parcel out their lands, and to make such arrangements with their tenants, as enabled them to abolish common pasturage, and runridge or run-field farms. This desirable object is now so completely attained, that there are very few parts of the kingdom where this ancient practice is continued, except in a few cases where an estate or township is in the possession of two or more proprietors; and even in such cases it is entirely owing to the negligence of one or other of the proprietors; for where any landholder,

and in which case it is not to be considered as a

so situated, refuses to agree to an amicable and equitable division, he may be compelled, in virtue of the acts of Parliament above alluded to, the one for dividing common lands, the other for dividing runridge, or tenantry lands * ; both of which can be carried into effect, by instituting an action against the refractory party, before the Supreme Court of Scotland.

Thus has the great obstacle to the introduction of new and better systems of husbandry been completely removed.

To this circumstance, in a great measure, may be attributed, that very considerable change for the better, which has taken place in the modes of conducting the agricultural operations of the country, within these last fifty years. A change so great, as to stand hitherto unrivalled in the annals of agriculture, and which has been productive of a degree of industry, emulation, and consequent prosperity among that class of men connected with husbandry, unknown in any former

* The former passed in the 1661, and is entitled, "An act for planting and inclosing ground;" and the latter, in the 1669, termed, "An act anent inclosing ground;" two most excellent acts, which prevent in a great measure the expence, trouble and delay, to which the inhabitants of England are subjected, in their very tedious applications to Parliament. These acts merit the most serious perusal of every landholder in Britain, particularly of those in the southern kingdom.

former period of the history of that or any other kingdom.

Improved Mode of Occupation.—It was to some of the great proprietors and country gentlemen, that Scotland was indebted for the introduction of a spirit for improvements in agriculture*. Having had occasion frequently to visit England, and to observe the superior modes of cultivation practised there, they adopted the laudable resolution of endeavouring to introduce them into their own country.

In order to effect this, they engaged ploughmen from England, purchased the most improved implements of husbandry then in use in that country, and set to work to improve their own farms. Fields were drained, ridges levelled and straightened, inclosures formed, fallow, turnips, and artificial grasses introduced, and such an alteration made in the appearance of their farms, that the active and intelligent farmers around

* The names of many of these truly respectable characters are known to the writer; and nothing but a fear of giving offence, by omitting others, whose conduct in this respect might have been equally meritorious, though not consistent with his knowledge, prevents him from giving a list of those to whose exertions it was principally owing, that Scotland has, in so short a period, made such rapid progress in a knowledge of the more improved modes of agriculture.

around became soon convinced, that to follow the same methods was a most certain way to promote their own interests. Among this class, the practice of these improvements soon became general. But the middling and lower ranks of tenants, not possessing that degree of knowledge which would enable them at once to form a correct opinion in regard to the advantages which would arise from these new methods, did not readily adopt them. Within these few years, however, they are gradually losing sight of that almost unconquerable attachment which this class of men in every country retains for ancient habits and customs, and even among them a spirit for agricultural improvements has become general, at least over the greatest part of Scotland.

The mode in which the arable lands are presently occupied, is mixed husbandry; that is, raising alternate crops of grain and grass. There are, however, around many of the proprietors manor-houses, some old grass-fields, and in the remote parts of the kingdom, few improvements have yet been introduced, and the ancient system of management prevails.

Except in the fen or carse soils, where the cultivation of grain is the farmers principal object, the common practice is, to have nearly one half of the farm under artificial grasses, part of which is made into hay, and the remainder devoted to the pasturage of the horses and

cattle on the farm. In most counties, a breeding stock of black cattle is kept, but in some they are purchased from other districts, in the beginning of the grass-season, and a few months afterwards are sold to dealers from England, who attend the great cattle-fairs in Scotland, or they are sent forward to market in that kingdom, at the risk of the country dealers, who purchase them from the farmers and graziers.

Before artificial grasses were introduced, and when farms were in the open field state, it was customary for every farmer to have a flock of sheep. These were the ancient breeds of the country, small in size, and comparatively of little value. When improvements by inclosing and sowing artificial grasses were introduced, it was soon found that these animals, (owing to the miserable manner in which they were maintained), when permitted to get into a field of clover in the autumn, or spring, devoured with such avidity, as to tear up or destroy the tender plants; and therefore it was judged necessary to banish them from the cultivated parts of the country. It having now become the study of many intelligent farmers, to unite, as much as possible, improvements in the different species of live stock, with that of the due cultivation of the soil; sheep of the best breeds of England have been introduced into particular counties, and a portion (though hitherto inconsiderable) of the

artificial pastures on the inclosed farms, is occupied in rearing and fattening this species of stock.

While these great and important improvements have been rapidly advancing* in the low parts of Scotland, an alteration equally great has taken place in the mode of occupying the natural pastures or wastes in the Highlands. This, though it has in too many instances been attended with one very great national loss, the depopulation of the country, has no doubt been the means of bringing the value of property in that part of Scotland nearer to its proper medium than it formerly was. The alteration here alluded to, is the introduction of the system of sheep-husbandry on a large scale, which has now become very general; whereby these pastures, which were formerly in many cases but partially stocked for a few months in summer, are now employed in the pasturage of sheep all the year round.

Woods and Plantations.—This kingdom, like that of England, was once wholly covered with wood, which the inhabitants gradually destroyed, and converted the forests into arable and pasture land. Their still remain evident marks of ridges on the sides of many of the higher hills and mountains, which being now abandoned to the growth of heath, renders it probable, that cultivation first began in those parts of the coun-

try; and that what is now improved and cultivated, was then either swamps and morasses, or covered with immense trees, which were there found more difficult to remove, than those which, from their exposed and elevated situations, had not arrived at such a size.

Many reasons have been assigned for the decay of the ancient forests. Some imagine they were cut down for the purpose of more easily destroying the great numbers of wolves, with which the country was formerly infested. Others, that the heads of clans, or great feudal barons, found it necessary to destroy each others strong holds; or, that these woods being sheltering places for lawless banditti, who lived upon the plunder of their more industrious neighbours, it became necessary to destroy them; while not a few attribute the destruction of the ancient forests to the great havoc which often happened by hurricanes, and from many large trees being found in several of the mosses, swamps and morasses, not lying across one another, but nearly in one direction*; it is more than

* In the Statistical Account of the parish of Kilbarchan, in the county of Renfrew, the following curious circumstance is mentioned: "Of this eastern division, 500 acres are occupied by a moss from 7 to 9 feet in depth."—"About an acre of this moss is annually taken off in
" peats

than probable that this last cause, (when the country, in consequence of the increase of cultivation, became in some degree open and exposed), contributed greatly to the general devastation.

To whatever causes the destruction of the ancient forests is to be attributed, certain it is, there are but few vestiges of them that now remain. The most considerable are those in Strathpey, in the county of Moray, Braemar in Aberdeenshire, and Strathglass and some others, in the county of Inverness, where there are still to be seen many very large and valuable natural pines, which, from trials made of them at the Navy-office, have been found equal, if not superior in quality, to any fir timber ever imported from the Baltic.

On the margins of the lakes, and along the banks of the rivers in the less cultivated parts of the

“ peats by the neighbouring inhabitants. The soil below is a deep white clay, where has formerly been a forest. The oak is perfectly fresh; the other kinds of timber are rotten. The stumps in general are standing in their original position. The trees are all broken over at about the height of three feet, and are lying from south-west to north-east; so wherever you see a stump, you are sure to find a tree to the north-east.”—

See Statistical Account, Vol. XV. page 484.

the kingdom, there are many tracts of coppices. These consist chiefly of oak, and are valuable on account of the bark, which is sold to the tanners at a high price. These coppices are cut down once in the course of 20 or 25 years.

The wood is in some cases burned into charcoal, but more generally sold to the people in the country, who either use it for fire-wood, and repairing their houses, or convert it into implements of husbandry.

The general decay of the forests, added to the increased demand for timber, which has taken place since the union of the two kingdoms, and especially since the middle of this century, in consequence of the extension of commerce and manufactures, induced many of the great proprietors, to plant large tracts of waste lands, about 40 or 50 years ago. Before that period, the country was very destitute of trees, except around the houses and castles of the ancient proprietors. The same reasons, added to the general introduction of better modes of husbandry, and the desire which all ranks of proprietors have lately evinced to improve their estates to the greatest possible extent, have given rise to a spirit for planting, greater perhaps than ever appeared in any other country. Some proprietors have planted thousands of acres of waste land; others have ornamented their estates, and the districts where they are situated, by planting
all

all the small hills and gentle eminences inaccessible to the plough; while others, uniting utility with ornament, have disposed their plantations in such a manner, as to afford shelter to the arable lands, while the effect to the eye is equally picturesque and agreeable. There are few proprietors who have not somewhat contributed, in proportion to the extent of their estates, towards ornamenting the country with plantations. And in the words of a late elegant writer, it ought to be observed, "Such a laudable spirit prevails in this respect, that in another half century, it never shall be said, that to spy the nakedness of the land you are come*."

Some hundred thousand acres have been planted in this kingdom within these last 30 years. The greatest proportion of these plantations was originally of Scotch fir; but several of the proprietors are now engaged in thinning these, and planting oaks and other deciduous trees in the vacancies. The remainder of these plantations, consists of oak, ash, elm, beech, plane, larch, spruce, and other firs, and will no doubt in time, give a richness to the general appearance of the country, of which at present it is in a great measure destitute. Notwithstanding what is stated above, much

* Pennant's Tour in Scotland, Vol. I. page 135.

much yet remains to be done; and it is hoped, that those spirited proprietors will prosecute their labours with unremitting assiduity, in order not only to improve the waste lands, but also, by means of more numerous plantations, and hedge-row trees, to procure additional shelter to the arable and pasture fields.

From these general observations, it must be obvious to every reader, that there is a large extent of lands, both in England and Scotland, by no means occupied to the greatest advantage, or in such a manner as to yield valuable returns. On the contrary, it is but too evident, that a shameful inattention to this important object, in various parts of Britain too commonly prevails; and that while we are indebted to foreign nations for annual supplies of bread-corn to an immense amount, many hundred thousands of British acres, highly susceptible of improvement, are allowed to remain in an imperfect state of cultivation, or totally waste and neglected.

It shall be the object of some future chapters, to state this matter at considerable length; and while the means by which these improvements can be most completely effected, will be pointed out, those great obstacles which have hitherto operated as an unsurmountable bar thereto, will be particularly taken notice of.

In the mean time, it must give real pleasure to every person who wishes for the prosperity of these

these kingdoms, to hear, that the period is at last arrived, when the British Senate has taken it up as a subject worthy of its most serious consideration. From this quarter much may naturally be expected; but it ought also to be remembered, that much is required to be done; and it may be affirmed, that without an almost total alteration of the present agricultural legislation, this desirable end cannot be accomplished to its fullest extent.

CHAP.



CHAP. III.

A brief Account of the Tenures under which landed Estates are held. Some Remarks on the impolicy of permitting Proprietors of Land in a commercial and manufacturing Country to entail their Estates. The Division of landed Property in Britain.

ALTHOUGH it is not intended to swell this chapter to great length, yet it is presumed its introduction in this work will be proper, that no information which the reader may wish to acquire, in subjects so immediately connected with the progress and improvement of British agriculture, may be wanting. It is pro-

posed to divide the subjects above mentioned into the following Sections :

I. A brief account of the tenures under which landed estates are held.

II. Some remarks on the impolicy of permitting proprietors of land in a commercial and manufacturing country to entail their estates,

III. The division of landed property in Great Britain.

SEC.

SECTION I.

A brief Account of the Tenures under which landed Estates are held.

THE most ancient regulations regarding landed property had their origin from the military policy of the northern nations, who overran Europe at the decline of the Roman empire.

“ When nations * subject to despotic Governments make conquests, these serve only to extend the dominion and power of their master. But armies composed of freemen conquer for themselves, not for their leaders. The people who overturned the Roman empire, and settled in its various provinces, were of the latter class.

“ They followed the chieftain who led them forth in quest of new settlements, not by constraint, but from choice, not as soldiers whom he would order to march, but as volunteers who offered to accompany him. They considered their conquests as common property, in which all had a title to share, as all had contributed to acquire them.

“ The

* Robertson's History of Charles V. vol. 1. p. 14, &c.

“ The King or General who led them to con-
 “ quest, continuing still to be the head of the
 “ colony, had, of course, the largest portion al-
 “ lotted to him. Having thus acquired the
 “ means of rewarding past services, as well as of
 “ gaining new adherents, he parcelled out his
 “ lands with this view, binding those on whom
 “ they were bestowed to follow his standard,
 “ with a number of men in proportion to the
 “ extent of territory which they possessed, and
 “ to bear arms in his defence. His chief offi-
 “ cers imitated the example of the Sovereign,
 “ and in distributing portions of their lands
 “ among their dependents, annexed the same
 “ conditions to the grant.

“ Thus a feudal kingdom resembles a mili-
 “ tary establishment, rather than a civil consti-
 “ tution. The victorious army, cantoned in all
 “ the country which it had seized, continued
 “ ranged under its proper officers, and subordi-
 “ nate to military command. The names of a
 “ soldier and a freeman were synonymous. E-
 “ very proprietor of land, girt with a sword, was
 “ ready to march at the summons of his superior,
 “ and to take the field against the common ene-
 “ my.”

It does not appear, that the feudal system
 was fully introduced into England till after the
 Norman conquest ; as in 1085 * King William
 called

* Henry's History of Britain.

called a meeting of his nobility at Sarum, where all the principal landholders agreed to hold their lands by military tenure, whereby they became the King's vassals, and did homage and fealty to his person. In this manner was the feudal system established, the fundamental principle of which was, that all lands were originally granted by the Sovereign, and therefore held by every proprietor, either immediately or mediately, of the King or Prince.

In regard to the tenures of land in England, it may be observed, that from the Norman conquest in 1066, to the restoration of Charles II. in 1660, estates were held under a variety of different tenures; but soon after the last mentioned period, an act of Parliament was passed, whereby it was declared, that tenures of every description, held of the King or others, should be turned into what is termed in law *free and common soccage*, save only tenures of *copyhold* and *frankalmoign*; so that, although the tenures of landed property in England underwent many alterations from the Saxon æra to that of the Restoration, they are now in fact reduced to three kinds, viz.

1st, *Free tenure in common soccage*.—All lands so held are denominated freehold estates, or estates holding immediately of the King.

2d, *Copyholds*.—These are estates held by the proprietors immediately of lords of manors, therefore

therefore only mediately of the King, and consequently not freeholds.

3d, *Frankalmoign*, or free alms. By this kind of tenure all the church-lands in England are held by religious corporations of the donors.

It would be foreign to the present purpose to enter into a detail of the numerous annexations and alienations of lands to and from the Crowns of these kingdoms, or the right by which the King holds lands. It is only necessary to observe, that formerly the greatest part of the revenues of the Kings, both of England and Scotland, were derived from their territorial possessions in lands, which were either reserved by the Crown, or came afterwards by forfeitures, or other means, and are now declared by law to be unalienable from the Crown of these realms.

In Scotland, the feudal system continued in force (the great barons or proprietors in many cases exercising an arbitrary, and almost sovereign power over their vassals and dependents) so late as the reign of George II. when military tenure, or, as it was called, *ward-holding*, was abolished by act of Parliament, whereby all lands held under tenure of military service, were to be held *blanch* of the Crown, and are consequently freeholds. The lands formerly held *ward* of subjects superior (lords of manors) were also by
that

that law converted into *feu-holdings*, that is, lands held in perpetuity for payment of certain fines, and a determinate yearly rent or feu-duty in money or grain, or services of a civil nature, as ploughing, sowing, carriages, &c. and thereby all military and other personal services abolished. The holders of lands under this last mentioned tenure, however, although possessed of a yearly valued rent, sufficient to entitle them by law to vote at the election of a member to serve in Parliament, cannot exercise that right, their estates being held immediately of a subject, and only mediately of the King, and are therefore not freehold.

From the preceding short account it appears, that there are now only four descriptions of tenures under which estates in land are held in this island.

1st, The lands annexed to the Crown, which are held by the King or Prince.

2^d, Church-lands, which were originally granted by the proprietors for the support of the church in free alms or charity, and which are possessed by the different religious corporations in England, in terms of the original grants.

3^d, Freeholds, or estates held by charter from the King as superior.

4th, Copyholds and feuholds, or estates which, though held by some person of the King, are only held by the actual proprietors of a subject, as his immediate superior.

SECTION II.

Some Remarks on the Impolicy of permitting Proprietors of Land in a commercial and manufacturing Country to entail their Estates.

THE entailing of estates, or settling them on a certain series of heirs, and under such restrictions and limitations in regard to the future management, as appear proper to the entailer, is a practice which has been long established in Britain. The principal object of entailing lands seems to have been that of securing the possession of the estate (in defiance of every possible event that could happen) to the heirs and successors of such persons to the latest posterity. "Entails (says Dr Adam Smith) are formed upon the most absurd of all suppositions, the supposition that every succeeding generation of men have not an equal right to the earth, and all it possesses; but that the property of the present generation should be regulated and restrained according to the fancy of those who died perhaps five hundred years ago."

In consequence of the means which, by the laws of England, are provided for breaking or cutting off the effects of such deeds, so as that the then possessor may be enabled to sell, give, or bequeath the estate, this practice can never, in

in all probability, be attended with very disagreeable consequences in that kingdom, at least for any length of time.

In Scotland the matter is very different. There when an estate has been entailed in all the regular forms of law, it becomes secured to the persons mentioned in the settlement, and to their heirs and destined successors, so long as they, or the constitution of the country exist.

This practice, though long established in Scotland, was formerly chiefly confined to families respectable for rank, fortune, and antiquity; but it has now become very general, and upwards of three-fourths of the landed property of several counties, and very probably one-third of the whole kingdom, are possessed under tenures of this kind; while it is at the same time evident, that nothing can operate more powerfully against the general improvement of the country.

In all these cases, the proprietors are reduced to the state of liferenters; who, if they have numerous families, are debarred in prudence from laying out money in the improvement of their estates, since both capital and interest must descend to the heir, and the other children are left in a state of indigence and dependence. It often happens, that the proprietor of an entailed estate, who has no son, but probably several daughters, has the mortification to know, that on his death, his paternal inheritance goes to the

next male heir of the original entailer, who may, owing to the lapse of time since the entail was executed, be very remotely connected with either. In almost all such cases, the proprietors are tempted to cut down woods, though not nearly arrived at maturity, and to adopt every other means in their power, in order to make a provision for their families, without paying the least degree of attention to the improvement of the estate.

Instances are also common, where the proprietors, owing to extravagance, have contracted very large debts, and where the creditors have been obliged to accept of a proportion of the rent of the estate, *during the lifetime of the debtor*, as a full compensation for their claims, even though the proportion of the rents so assigned has not much exceeded 5 *per cent.* of the original debts. Nor are these the only evils resulting from the practice of entailing estates. If carried much farther, the greatest part of the landed property in Scotland will be completely locked up from market, and farmers, merchants, and manufacturers, who acquire fortunes by their enterprise and industry, will be as effectually precluded from purchasing lands in their native country, as if they were positively debarred by an act of Parliament. Where then, it may be asked with propriety, are they to invest their property? Foreign nations will be happy to accommodate

commodate them, and Great Britain may hereafter repent the loss of so much capital, and of such numbers of her most industrious citizens.

As the practice of entailing estates now so generally established in Scotland has produced much inconvenience to the holders of such estates, very heavy losses to the merchant and manufacturer, and operated as an unsurmountable bar to the introduction of improvements in agriculture, it is, therefore, to be hoped, that the impolicy of permitting this system (formerly the offspring of feudal necessity, and now of feudal pride) to be carried to a greater extent, will be seriously considered by the Legislature of these kingdoms, and that such measures may be adopted as will remove the evils with which it is attended. It is impossible, that agriculture, commerce, or manufactures, will continue to flourish, if the persons engaged in them shall be precluded from having any interest in their native fields, or of recovering from the holders of such estates, the payments of bills and accounts, which in any other case the laws of the land would compel them to discharge.

SECTION III.

The Division of landed Property in Great Britain.

It may be proper, for the sake of perspicuity, to give an account of the division of property in each kingdom separately, beginning with

ENGLAND.

The lands in England and Wales were, at no very remote period, chiefly in the possession of the Crown, the Church, and great proprietors. Owing to several causes, which will be hereafter mentioned, landed property has become of late more widely diffused, and new orders of proprietors have risen into consequence, which has proved greatly advantageous to the State, not only in regard to improvements in husbandry, but also to the advancement of all the other arts*.

The

* Dr Smith, in his justly celebrated Enquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations, states,
in

The extent of landed property formerly vested in the Crown of England, was very considerable ; but during several reigns many improvident grants were made by the Sovereigns to particular favourites, whereby it became much diminished. From the Report given in to Parliament some years ago, by the Commissioners appointed to enquire into the landed revenues of the Crown, it appears, that the old and improved rent then payable, amounted only to L. 16,784 : 12 : 3 $\frac{1}{4}$. The real annual value, however,

in the clearest manner, the necessity of attending with the most minute exactness to the proper division of labour, and mentions the advantages which must necessarily result therefrom.

Had not the yeomanry been relieved from the yoke of feudal slavery, and had not the genius of commerce and manufactures visited the land, what would have been the situation of the great body of the people in England at this day? Those who have read of the consequences of the long and sanguinary wars carried on between the houses of York and Lancaster, or those which attended the late rebellion in Scotland, may form some conjecture. Fortunately, however, for England, by attention to business, and the full employment of their time, the yeoman, the merchant, and the manufacturer, are now, in numerous instances, independent proprietors, and have acquired a footing in the State, which they hold, with no less honour to themselves, than advantage to the public.

however, far exceeds this sum ; for, in the same account, it is stated, that the lands and estates from which the above mentioned rent is payable, were, by the latest surveys, ascertained to be worth L. 102,626 : 14 : 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ *per annum* *.

It is impossible to form any correct idea of the lands now in possession of the Church. They are commonly let on leases of twenty-one years, renewable every seven, on payment of a fine ; and therefore the rent-roll must be rather nominal, than such as can convey any information in regard to the real annual value of the property. Suppose the Clergy of England had a right to the tithes over the whole kingdom † ; that all the parishes were inclosed ; and

* It is by no means intended to throw out the most distant personal reflection to the prejudice of those in the management of the Crown-lands. It is well known, that these estates are commonly let on leases of one, or two, or three lives, or for a great number of years ; on every renewal of which, fines (in Scotland called *grassums*) are exacted. These fines paid at the commencement of the leases, and improved by compound interest during the currency of them, may perhaps in the end, exceed, in some cases, any yearly additional rent that could be demanded.

† On the dissolution of abbeys, a statute was enacted by Henry VIII. by which all persons who should come to

and that an allotment of land was given in every case, in lieu of tithes, a judgment may be formed of the extent of land that would fall to be possessed by them, from the rule frequently adopted by those who act as Commissioners under acts of Parliament passed for inclosing certain parishes, namely, giving the Clergyman one-sixth of the arable, and one-ninth of the pasture, or two-thirteenths of the whole. Including the lands in the possession of the religious corporations, it is probable they might amount to nearly one-fifth of the whole kingdom.

It has been observed, that, while the feudal system existed, the Lords and great proprietors parcelled out considerable parts of their estates among their vassals and dependents. Since the abolition of that system, the possessors of these lands have been generally known by the name of Yeomen*. A most useful and valuable class

of

to the possession of the lands of any abbey then dissolved, should hold them free and discharged of tithes, in as large and ample a manner as the abbeys themselves formerly held them; and from this original have sprung all the lands which, being in lay-hands, do at present claim to be tithe-free.

BLACKSTONE'S *Commentaries*, vol. ii. p. 32.

* The Yeomanry are those who either cultivate their own estates, or, together with some small estate of their

of men, who are at present proprietors of no inconsiderable share of the landed property of England.

The recent very great increase in trade and manufactures, and the consequent influx of money, have tended still more to the division of property, by the creation of a great number of small freeholds. Proprietors of extensive manors, who find it necessary to dispose of their estates, (and this will happen in every country where the practice of entailing landed property does not prevail), judged it for their interest, to parcel them out in small lots, rather than sell them in entire manors. This having been for years the general practice, especially when the estates were situated in the vicinity of great cities, or large manufacturing towns, merchants and manufactures, and the officers of our fleets and armies, have had opportunities of exercising that degree of genius and persevering industry in planning and executing agricultural improvements, which, in the early part of life, enabled them

their own, rent and cultivate extensive farms from neighbouring proprietors. They certainly form one of the most important links in the chain of society, and not only possess the means, but are stimulated by interest, to promote good husbandry. They are therefore the most forward, if not to introduce, at least to carry into general practice, all *real* improvements in Agriculture.

them to lay the foundation for becoming proprietors.

The proprietors of England and Wales may be classed into two divisions. The Crown, the religious corporations or clergy, and the great landholders, or those who possess from L. 5000 to L. 50,000 a-year and upwards, form the first class; and probably possess nearly three-fifths of the whole. The second division, consisting of that great body of gentlemen, holding estates from L. 500 or L. 600 to L. 4000 or L. 5000 a-year; and of the yeomanry, or those who possess from L. 30 or L. 40, to L. 500 or L. 600 of yearly rent, are in possession of the remainder.

SCOTLAND.

The Crown can hardly be said to possess any landed property in this part of the united kingdom. But it is only a few years since that was the case; for in consequence of the rebellions which happened in the year 1715 and 1745, the estates of several noble and respectable families were forfeited and annexed to the Crown, on account of the active concern which the then proprietors took in those rebellions, in opposition to the established government. Highly to the ho-

nour of the British Legislature, however, such of these estates as were unfold and annexed to the Crown, were lately restored to the representatives of those families, by act of Parliament; an act which experience has already proved was politically right; as almost all the proprietors of those estates are now evincing their gratitude to their King and country, by exerting their utmost endeavours in the defence of both.

Previous to the abolition of Popery in this kingdom in the year 1560, the clergy possessed landed property to a very great extent, but at that period the great proprietors who had (with a view to promote their own interests) encouraged and supported the promoters of the Reformation, when it was effected, seized on all the church-lands, and in lieu thereof, and of the tithes which were formerly payable, allotted a certain quantity of money, or grain, or both, with a house, and a few acres of land, for the support and accommodation of each Protestant clergyman. As proprietors therefore, this respectable, useful, well informed and deserving body, amounting to upwards of 900, rank very low, in comparison of what their predecessors did; for, in consequence of their offices, they only possess about 6000 acres of arable land. In this kingdom, the feudal system was not only carried to a greater extent, but continued much longer in force than it did in England; and as manufactures

manufactures and commerce began to flourish here only since the union of the two kingdoms, or rather since the middle of this century, a greater proportion of the landed property still remains in the hands of great proprietors, especially in the northern and more remote districts, where trade and manufactures are comparatively but little known. In Scotland, great proprietors alone, or those holding estates from L. 4000 or L. 5000 to L. 25,000 a-year, and upwards, may be said to be invested with the one-half of the whole kingdom. The other half is more generally divided. The greatest part of it being possessed by a numerous and respectable body of gentlemen in estates varying from L. 300 or L. 400, to L. 4000 or L. 5000 a-year, and the remainder by such as possess from L. 30 or L. 40, to L. 300 or L. 400 of yearly rent. There are not many of this last description, who like the English yeomen cultivate their own estates, being for the most part engaged in the naval, military, or civil departments of the state, few of them reside constantly in the country. There are, however, many of the proprietors of Scotland, to whom the account given of the late Sir John Lockhart Ross, by Mr Pennant in his tour in Scotland, is extremely applicable: "He is" (says that writer), the best farmer, and the "greatest planter in the country;" and he adds, "it is with great satisfaction that I observed
" characters

" characters of this kind very frequent in North
" Britain; for during the interval of peace,
" every officer of any patrimony was fond of
" retiring to it; assumed the farmer without
" flinging off the gentleman, and enjoyed rural
" quiet, yet ready to undergo the fatigues of
" war, the moment his country claimed his ser-
" vices."

CHAP.

CHAPTER IV.

The Farmers of Great Britain.

HAVING, in the preceding Chapters, had under consideration various subjects, which, although intimately connected with a work of this nature, and without the discussion of which it would have been impossible for the reader to have formed a proper opinion in regard to the general state of Agriculture in these kingdoms, yet perhaps many of them may not be such as to convey much useful information to the practical farmer.

It is proposed therefore in future, to treat of such subjects, only, as *every British farmer will find himself more or less interested in.*

The

The farmers of Great Britain may be arranged in the following classes :

Sect. I. The King.

II. The great proprietors and country gentlemen.

III. Yeomen and farmers, *properly so called*.

IV. Possessors of small farms.

V. Cottagers, including different descriptions of people, who cultivate small farms, and acres adjoining to towns and villages.

VI. The unproductive class of husbandmen.

SEC:

SECTION I.

The King.

It will not be denied that the governments of Modern Europe have hitherto encouraged the industry of the towns, in preference to that of the country; and in some measure depressed agriculture, in order to advance manufacturing and commercial industry.

On the other hand, the government of the immense territory of China, encourages agriculture more than all the other arts; in so much, that the condition of a farm labourer in that country, is said to be as superior to that of an artificer, as with us it is inferior. It is not difficult to trace these different systems of policy to the same source, however apparently inconsistent they are in themselves.

The increase of commerce and manufactures in the different kingdoms of Europe, has always been attended with an increase of revenue to the State; and which, in consequence of its being brought more speedily, and with less expence into the Exchequer, than that arising from agriculture, becomes thereby more advantageous; while the sovereigns of China derive the

the greatest part, if not the whole, of their revenue, from the produce of the soil.

From these opposite systems of political œconomy, another might no doubt be established infinitely better, calculated to promote the interests of the nation, by affording the means of supporting a more numerous population than is possible to be done by adhering to either of the former. Were agriculture, manufactures, and commerce alike encouraged, they would all prosper in an equal degree; and though the revenues arising from the former, might not be so well calculated to answer any sudden exigence, yet experience has proved that, in these kingdoms, they form the most sure and permanent resources of the state*.

If this proposition is well founded, (and it is presumed it will not be controverted), it must give the most sincere satisfaction to every lover of his country to see that the Sovereign of these great kingdoms, which have risen so high in fame among the nations for the extent of their manufactures and commerce, has, like another Cato, turned his attention to the cultivation and improvement of his native soil, and thereby done more for the encouragement of agriculture, than could probably

* Witness the land and malt taxes, excise on ale, beer, British spirits, cyder, perry, leather, candles, and many other articles.

probably have been effected by any other means. The example which his Majesty thus holds out for the imitation of the higher class of his subjects, cannot fail to be attended with consequences highly beneficial, as has been eminently testified, by the meritorious exertions of his Grace the Duke of Bedford, and many others; while the attention of the other branches of the Legislature will be naturally turned to the formation of such laws and regulations in favour of those who practise this most useful art, as will in all probability tend in a very great degree to the further improvement of the country.

On his Majesty's farm, and under his personal attention, farm-houses have been built, swamps and morasses drained, plantations formed, and every means adopted that could contribute to improve the soil, or embellish the landscape. In carrying on these works, liberal expenditure has been combined with minute savings, which is indispensably necessary in all the operations of husbandry; either where the object is profit, or, as in this case, a desire to promote the public good, by endeavouring to create a spirit in others for undertaking similar improvements.

SECTION II.

The great Proprietors and Country Gentlemen.

A CONSIDERABLE portion of the cultivated lands in Britain is possessed by the great proprietors, and such as generally reside on their estates, who may therefore very properly be denominated country-gentlemen.

Exclusive of their domains or lands around their manor-houses, these proprietors commonly hold farms, which are kept under regular modes of cultivation. Many of these characters merit high commendation for their steady and unwearied attention to that great source of national wealth, the introduction of better systems of husbandry; while others have gone farther, and not only endeavoured, both by precept and example, to induce their tenants to adopt such systems as they from experience had found beneficial, but also granted leases of such duration, and on terms so liberal, as induced men possessing knowledge, enterprise, and capital, to apply them to the art of husbandry.

It is to be regretted, however, that this cannot be said of all the great proprietors and country

try-gentlemen of this island. Many there are who, with a cool indifference respecting either the improvement of the country, or the situation of their tenants, seem to think, the chief business of a landlord ought to be an unremitting attention to the extension of his rent-roll, without ever duly considering, that if additional rents are demanded, means should be furnished by the introduction of better systems of husbandry, improved breeds of stock, and the expenditure of money in the improvement of the property, by which tenants may be enabled to discharge such farther obligations. But from the spirit of improvement, which has of late evinced itself so conspicuously, it may be hoped, that in a little time no instance of this kind will be found amongst this highly respected class.

S E C.

SECTION III.

Yeomen and Farmers, properly so called.

THIS respectable class of the community may be considered the strength of the state. The yeoman and the farmer here alluded to differ only in one particular; the lands which the former cultivates are either in part or in whole his own property, while the latter rents his farm from another. In regard to industry, perseverance, and attention to business, there is no difference. Happy in their situation, removed on the one hand from the vanities and superfluities of high life, and, on the other, by their honest industry from the fear of poverty; the improvement of their farms constituting their chief study and delight, they spend their days in independence, enjoying health, and all the rational comforts of life.

It is probable, that near three-fourths of these kingdoms are possessed by people of this description. Fortunate it is for Britain, that this is the case; for although many of the proprietors are entitled to much praise for introducing improvements into various parts of the country, it is to this class that the nation is indebted for these improvements having become so general.

S E C-

SECTION IV.

Possessors of small Farms.

IN all the best cultivated parts of Great Britain, as well as where improvements have not become general, there are many small farms. These, though not as yet in every case managed in such a manner as to produce the greatest crops which the soil is capable of yielding, are, however, much better cultivated than they were thirty or forty years ago. And the spirit for improvements among tenants of this description appears to be more general than at any former period. Although from the want of capital, and the little attention generally paid to them by their landlords, added to their own attachment to ancient prejudices, they are yet very far from having attained that degree of usefulness in an agricultural view, to which by adopting proper means they may be advanced.

The possessors of small farms are very useful and valuable members of the community; honest, peaceable, and industrious, they breed up their children in the same principles, and to these are the manufacturers of our island most indebted for a never failing supply of virtuous and useful artificers.

SECTION V.

Cottagers, including different Descriptions of People, who cultivate small Farms adjoining to Towns and Villages.

COTTAGERS are those who either reside in the neighbourhood of large farms adjoining to moors or commons, or in small hamlets. They generally possess a few acres of tillage-lands, from the cultivation of which, together with what they receive for labour performed to the farmers, or from carrying on the occupations to which they had been bred, as weavers, tailors, shoemakers, blacksmiths, thatchers, &c. are able thereby to maintain their families. Being for the most part industrious, and inured to labour, they bring up their children not only without becoming burdens on the public, but in such a manner as to render them extremely useful, as members of society. These hamlets and cottages are also nurseries whence the British farmer draws his constant supply of labourers.

Those who cultivate small farms adjoining to towns or villages, fall to be described under two characters: The first are, such as reside in towns,

towns, and are engaged in commerce and manufactures, but who, for their amusement, or the convenience of their families, possess small farms in the neighbourhood. These may be denominated good farmers *only* in a national point of view. Their farms are indeed well cultivated, the crops luxuriant, and a full proportion corresponding to the extent of the farms, comes to market ; but owing to their time and attention being occupied with other matters, in the success of which they are more immediately interested, few of them derive much benefit from their farming operations. The reason is obvious, there is no business requires more unremitting care than that of husbandry ; and though people so employed may have it in their power to pay attention to the great leading points, as that of seed-time and harvest, it is not to be supposed they can spare time to superintend the execution of many of those more minute operations, on the proper attention to which, the profits of a farm, particularly one so situated, principally depend. The second are, those who reside in or immediately adjoining to towns, and farm so many acres as enables them to keep a few milch-cows, or two or three horses to hire, either for the saddle or the cart. It is only necessary to say, that as, on account of local situation, they commonly pay very high rents for their lands, they therefore find it for
their

their interest to cultivate them in the best manner, so as to insure the greatest possible crops. The uses to which these crops are applied, it will be readily admitted, tend in a material degree to the convenience and accommodation of the inhabitants, and therefore this description of cultivators are to the inhabitants of these towns and villages, what the British farmers are to the nation at large, namely, the means by which they are furnished with many of the necessities and comforts of life. Without the aid of this industrious class of men, it is evident, that manufactures cannot flourish, as those engaged in them in the various towns would be obliged to disperse, and seek those supplies in the country, without which their situation would be in a great measure unsupportable.

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SECTION VI.

The unproductive Class of Husbandmen.

IN summing up this account of the cultivators of the British soil, there yet remains a very numerous class to be taken notice of, and it is to be regretted, that the appellation of *the unproductive class* but too, well applies to them.

Those meant are, the great body of the inhabitants in the remote parts of Scotland, who are without doubt the most useless inhabitants in the island. This, however, it is but justice to say, does not arise from any fault of theirs, but from the negligence of those who should be their natural guardians and protectors. They are well known to be capable of the most indefatigable exertion and perseverance, when taught to look forward to any object, either of glory or of interest. But they are permitted to waste their time in sloth and indolence. Were the landholders to bestow the proper attention, which an object of such national importance merits, these people might, in a few years, be taught the first principles of improvement, namely, the value of time, and the beneficial effects of labour. Then, but not till then, will a knowledge of agriculture, and the other useful arts, prevail amongst them, and

take the place of that gloomy melancholy which was introduced under the feudal system, and has too long held its reign. To what is mentioned in the Geographical and Agricultural Description of Zetland and the Hebrides, respecting the miserable situation of the people, it may be added, that almost all the Statistical Accounts of the remote parts of Scotland, published by Sir John Sinclair, concur in representing the state of the inhabitants, as being little removed from that of the most abject slavery.

The greatest part of the cultivated lands in the Highlands and islands of Scotland, is possessed in townships; that is, a number of tenants reside in the same town or hamlet, and rent small lots adjoining. In almost every such case, the modes of cultivation, and the implements of husbandry, are probably little improved from what they were 500 years ago, at least they are wretched in the extreme; the culture of potatoes being the only improvement of any consequence that has taken place for ages. When to this it is added, that few attempts have hitherto been made to introduce either commerce or manufactures, it will appear evident to every British reader, that this great body of his fellow-subjects may with too much propriety, be termed an unproductive class, and in their present situation be considered as a burden rather than an advantage to the State.

It

It may be admitted, however, that of late years many of this class have been rendered useful to their country. They have supplied our fleets and armies with hardy seamen and good soldiers, and perhaps such of them as may return again to their native soil, may afford a useful example to the inhabitants, and learn them to imitate that attention and regularity, which they had acquired in the course of their naval and military services.

There are, notwithstanding, many in those districts, who, from the extent of lands which they possess, their knowledge of agriculture, and the attention which they bestow on the improvement of the different species of live stock, are justly entitled to be ranked among the number of British farmers; and if proper encouragement was given by the proprietors, and such modes of improvement introduced as the country is most susceptible of, that number would naturally increase.

CHAP-

It may be imagined, however, that of late years many of these objects have been rendered more difficult in the country. They have applied out food and labour with ready hands and good soldiers, and perhaps each of these may be said to agree to their own soil, may allow a soldier to be the husbandman, and learn them to imitate the attention and regularity which they had required in the course of their naval and military services. But these are not the only difficulties which are now existing, many in those districts, who from the extent of lands which they possess, their knowledge of agriculture, and the attention which they bestow on the improvement of the different species of live stock, are justly entitled to be ranked among the number of British farmers; and if proper encouragement was given by the proprietors and such modes of improvement introduced as the country is most susceptible of, that number would naturally increase. It is not, indeed, to be supposed that the present state of the country is such as to require any such assistance, and that the present state of the country is such as to require any such assistance, and that the present state of the country is such as to require any such assistance.



CHAPTER V.

Proper Size of Farms, and Tenors of Leases.

IN the introduction to this chapter, it may be proper to take notice of some of those leading points which ought to be chiefly attended to in renting or hiring a farm.

When a farmer has occasion to hire a farm, he should be equally careful to examine, on the one hand, all the advantages which it enjoys, and, on the other, all the disadvantages to which it is subjected. By making a just estimate of both, and by comparing the result with the rent demanded, can he only be able to form a correct opinion respecting the equity of that demand. In making this estimate, he should discard equally from his mind, that over cautious prudence, which is disposed to doubt of every probable advantage that may insure success, and that too adventurous temerity, which is apt to overlook, or at least to lessen real disadvantages, such

such as no future exertion of his can possibly overcome.

The value of land depends no less on its fertility, whether occupied in tillage or pasture, than on its situation in regard to markets. For this reason, an arable farm in the vicinity of a large town, is worth a higher rent than one of an equal size and quality in a remote part of the country. For the same reason, namely, a superior advantage in regard to markets, a sheep or store farm in the north of England, yields a higher rent to the proprietor, than one (but for the difference of situation) of similar value in the north-west of Scotland.

In renting a farm, one general rule ought always to be attended to, namely, fixing on good lands. Over Great Britain at large, the rents paid for farms of this description, are in general reasonable, when compared with what is commonly paid for those of more indifferent soils.

Another point which merits attention is, the manner in which the farm was formerly cultivated. If it has been exhausted and run out by over cropping, and requires fencing, draining, repairs of houses, lime, marl, &c. all which are to be effected at the tenant's expence, the rent payable to the landlord in such a case ought to be very moderate, in comparison to what the tenant could with equal propriety afford to give,

were

were he to enter on the lease when the farm was in a high state of cultivation and improvement. The difference here is much more considerable, than the generality of proprietors or farmers are disposed to allow. For instance, a farmer who enters to the possession of a farm in a high state of cultivation, enters immediately to the greatest returns which that farm is capable of producing; while he who enters to a farm which had been previously exhausted by improper management, finds himself under the necessity of expending large sums on the improvement of it; when, at the same time, his returns for the first few years, are inadequate to the expence incurred in carrying on even the ordinary operations. In the one case, the farmer enters from the beginning of his lease, on the receipt of his annual profits, moderate as they may be; and in the other, he is sinking a large share of his capital, from which his returns must at best be slow.

If this loss of capital and interest, the additional expence of cultivation, and the inferiority of crops for the first seven or eight years, are fairly calculated, it will be found, that the farmer who, under these circumstances, pays twenty shillings the acre for a lease of nineteen years, has as high a rent upon the farm during the whole lease, as the other who pays nearly double the sum.

One other particular of great importance ought to be mentioned, namely, the impropriety of renting a larger farm than the capital which the farmer possesses will properly stock and improve. When this happens, the tenant puts it out of his power to adopt the proper plans by which he could turn the farm to the greatest possible account. He becomes cramped in carrying on the ordinary course of business, and is frequently obliged to dispose of his crops at an under value for ready money; and therefore cannot purchase lime, marl, or other means of improvement, which are not to be had without the expenditure of considerable sums. Although it will not hold in every case, yet it may be asserted as a good general rule, that in the improved part of Great Britain, four pounds *per* English statute acre is a moderate sum for stocking a farm, without including the expence of buildings, repairs, fences, drains, &c. If, therefore, a farmer shall be so imprudent, as rent a farm of one hundred acres, when his capital does not exceed L. 200, he must be fortunate indeed, in times and seasons, if he has not occasion to repent of his temerity.

The following concurring and advantageous circumstances respecting a farm, merit the due consideration of every person who intends to rent one. He ought to consider, whether the land be rich and fertile, and the climate favourable;

able; likewise, whether the farm is well situated in regard to markets; properly accommodated as to houses; has easy access to lime, marl, and other manures; and, whether the price of provisions is fully on a par with the rate of labour. These are particulars to which it is necessary that every person who intends to become farmer should pay great attention, and which every intelligent farmer will duly consider.

3E

SEC.

SECTION I.

Proper size of Farms, considered in various Points of View.

It is not proposed to decide as to the precise number of acres which constitute what is generally denominated a proper sized farm. The person who attempts to do so, will be involved in difficulties, from which he will find it impossible to extricate himself; while his hypothesis must be liable to so many objections, as to evince in the clearest manner, that without considering the subject in various points of view, it is impossible to form even a general conclusion.

This subject, which, though apparently simple, involves a great variety of particulars, may probably be best elucidated, by explaining, how far large and small farms are advantageous or otherwise to the proprietors, the occupiers, and the nation at large.

Large Farms.—If the introduction of improvements in cultivation, and the breeds of the different species of live stock, are objects of importance to the proprietors of Great Britain as individuals, large farms must be considered by them as beneficial. As individuals also, they must experience other advantages from large farms.

farms. The extent of capital employed in stocking and cultivating these farms, insure a regular and prompt payment of the rents. Building and repairing farm-houses on such farms, although considerable at first, is not so heavy an annual charge, as on small farms; while the expence of inclosing and subdividing does not amount to one-tenth part.

It was fortunate for British farmers, as well as for British husbandry, that proprietors adopted the resolution of letting part of their estates in large farms. By that means, men possessing every requisite for constituting them good farmers, turned their attention to the cultivation of the soil, and the introduction of every improvement connected therewith; and in very many instances, have not only been so successful, as to maintain and educate their families in ease and comfort, but also to acquire such fortunes, as to render them independent proprietors; a circumstance that must give sincere satisfaction to every liberal mind; as, from the service they have done in promoting the interests of agriculture, they are well entitled to enjoy the fruits of their industry.

In regard to the community, large farms must be considered as favourable in several respects. On what farms in Norfolk have turnips been cultivated, and used to the greatest advantage? On what farms in the Carle of Gowrie has the cultivation

cultivation of grain been most successfully carried on? In Leicestershire, where have the greatest improvements in the different breeds of live stock been effected? In the counties of Northumberland and Berwick, where have improved breeds of stock been most generally united with skilful culture? Every person who has travelled through these districts, with a view of procuring agricultural information, must answer, "on large farms,"

It is from large farms, that the towns are principally supplied with the great articles of grain, fat cattle and sheep, of the best quality. And as farms of this size are kept in the highest state of cultivation of which the lands are susceptible, and managed with the fewest number of hands, the greatest quantity of produce that can be spared from the like extent of land, necessarily goes to market.

To the occupiers of large farms, it is also chiefly owing, that the supply of the towns in these indispensable articles is so regularly kept up. If these farmers could not afford to keep their grain and fat stock on hand till that of the poorer tenants were disposed of and consumed, the markets would either be overstocked at particular seasons, and entirely empty in others; or, what is equally bad, the articles would get into the hands of a few dealers, who, by mutual consent, might raise the price to any extent they pleased,

pleased, notwithstanding any acts of Parliament against forestalling, that could be framed.

There is one particular description of farms, which ought here to be taken notice of; these are in some places called *led-farms*, in others *grafs-farms*. Many farmers rent one or more large farms in different parts of the country, which are managed by an overseer. These are for the interest of the proprietor, because he generally receives a higher rent than could be afforded, were the farmer's family to be maintained from the profits of any of them alone; a great proportion being also allowed to remain in *grafs*, the lands must be in an improving state. The farmer, after paying the extra rent, and the wages of an overseer, still retains that proportion of profits, which renders the renting of such farms an object to him: But when it is considered, that the farmer's close attention to minute particulars in the management of a farm is absolutely necessary, to make it to the highest degree profitable, it is by no means clear, that the greatest produce which such farms are capable of yielding, goes to market.

The great, and indeed the only solid objection against large farms is, the consequent depopulation of the country. This, it will be generally acknowledged, is a most serious evil, and ought to be guarded against as much as possible. The remedy, however, in Scotland

land *, is easy, and in many places adopted; namely, by building cottages on the outskirts of the farms, and hiring ploughmen who are married and have families. These men are allowed grass for a cow, and a small quantity of ground for cultivating grain, potatoes, and garden stuffs, in part of their wages. Were this plan generally introduced in both kingdoms, the grand objection against large farms would be in a great measure removed; the description of inhabitants would no doubt be changed, but the population would suffer no material decrease, and at the same time, nearly an equal quantity of free produce would find its way to market.

Small Farms,—Are no doubt advantageous to the proprietors, in so far as the greatest number of British farmers are possessed only of slender capitals; and therefore, when small farms fall out of lease, several candidates immediately appear.

The operations on the farm being for the most part conducted by the farmer's own family, the expence

* The oppressive consequence of the laws relative to the poor, are so severely felt by the farmers in many parts of England, that they are compelled, in self defence, to enter into general resolutions, not to permit their servants, by residing a year with the same masters, to gain settlements in the parish. This is a measure which nothing but necessity can justify, and which shows in the clearest manner, the propriety of an immediate revision of these laws by the Legislature.

expence of hired servants is saved, and he is thereby enabled to give a higher rent than could otherwise be done, without changing the imperfect systems of agriculture too commonly practised on farms of this description.

These advantages in favour of the proprietors are, however, probably fully counterbalanced by the imperfect modes of cultivation above alluded to: The additional expence to which they are subjected by upholding farm-houses on an estate let in small farms; to which may be added, the very great extra charge which must unavoidably be incurred in inclosing and subdividing an extensive tract of land into small fields.

It is no doubt for the interest of such tenants, that there should be a great number of small farms. The limited extent of their funds, and their knowledge and influence in the scale of society, would put it totally out of their power to embark in large undertakings of this nature; and if all proprietors were to adopt the resolution, of letting no farms under a certain size, these people, (as often happens), would be forced to turn their attention to some other employment, by which they could maintain their families.

In a national point of view, small farms are undoubtedly advantageous. Large cities and towns, are confessedly inimical to the increase of population, and would in time be in a great measure without inhabitants, but for the constant

stant and regular supply which the country furnishes. Small farms are not only in favour of population, but of the most valuable sort of population; as in consequence of the share of education which many of them obtain, the children of such farmers become valuable acquisitions to the artist and manufacturer.

If small farms were entirely abolished, the great part of the occupiers must retire to towns, and engage in some branch of manufactures. At the commencement of every war, our manufactures receive a shock, from numbers of hands being called off to serve their country in our fleets and armies. Were this supply to be drawn chiefly from the towns, which in this case would certainly happen; what then would be the state of our manufactures, that great prop of national prosperity? In a word, it is owing, in no small degree, to the distribution of so large a share of the country into small farms, that the proper equilibrium of population between the towns and the country, so necessary to be preserved, is maintained.

It is true, that owing to the number of persons of which the families of this class of farmers are generally composed, and the imperfect manner in which the lands are too frequently cultivated, a very small proportion of the great article of bread-corn goes to market. But the no less necessary articles of milk, poultry, eggs, and in many cases, fuel, are furnished to the in-

habitants of the towns and villages, in much greater quantities from half a dozen of small farms, than from one of six times the extent. To this list may also be added, butter and cheese, with a few exceptions only, where dairy-husbandry is practised on a large scale.

It would be extremely difficult to determine, which of the sizes of farms before mentioned, are in every point of view most beneficial. There is, however, no occasion to hesitate in deciding, that a *variety in the size of farms*, is not only for the interest of all concerned, but absolutely necessary for the prosperity of the state. Were the farms all small, the population of the country would exceed the due proportion of the towns, and the quantity of provisions which it would be necessary to import, would be immense. If the country was wholly divided into large farms, and unmarried ploughmen principally employed, as is the case at present, the towns would be overstocked with people; and, unless the prices of cheese, butter, milk, eggs, poultry, fuel, &c. were advanced, so as to make it an object to that description of farmers to send them to market, a very scanty supply would be furnished.

The diversity in the size of farms in the island, is no doubt in favour of, and must be very agreeable to the farmers; for as they differ in knowledge and enterprise, as much as in the

extent of their capitals, they will naturally consider that farm as of the most proper size, which is upon the whole best suited to their particular circumstances and situations. Farms of the largest extent, the management of which a farmer is able *himself minutely to superintend*, must necessarily prove the most profitable; therefore, were the knowledge, enterprise and capitals of farmers all alike, large farms would be considered by them as of the most proper size. There is, however, no view of the subject, by which it will be found, that any one size of farms would be generally advantageous. On the contrary, it is clear, that the greater variety there is in the extent of farms, *provided that variety is general over every district in Great Britain*, the more extensively will the general interests of the nation at large be promoted.

S E C-

SECTION II.

Tenor of Leases, what appears the most equitable for Landlord and Tenant, stated.

It is acknowledged, on all hands, that nothing gives such a spring to industry, as the conviction, founded on the experience of ages, that in this country, the fruits of the labours of the industrious man are secured to him. Hence it may be inferred, that a farmer will be more or less active, in proportion to the security he holds of reaping the fruits of his industry. This is an observation which every day's experience proves to be well founded.

Leases are certainly necessary and proper, as a compact between man and man; and although the mode of cropping and general tenor of the lease, must vary according to times and circumstances; yet no man, who has thought seriously on the subject, will deny that leases are for the benefit of both parties. They secure to the landlord the proper management of the land so leased; and to the tenant, the additional profits which may be expected to arise from his superior cultivation of them.

“ Some tenants, says Lord Kames *, like some
“ kings, may be trusted with unlimited powers;
“ but such powers would be no less destructive

“ to

* The Gentleman Farmer, p. 406.

“ to the generality of tenants themselves than to
 “ their landlords. Tenants, therefore, like kings,
 “ must be fettered ; but in what manner, is a
 “ question no less difficult than useful. They
 “ ought not to be so fettered, as to bar improve-
 “ ments, nor left at liberty to do mischief.’

Although it is not possible to form any particular lease, so as to include clauses that can apply to every kind of soil, mode of cropping, and general management, yet, as the writer has had opportunities of perusing a great variety of leases in different parts of Great Britain ; and as he is in possession of two, (one adapted to each kingdom), which are the most perfect of their kind he has seen, he thinks the inserting them will be more agreeable, and convey more information on the subject than any explanation he could give *.

In

* ENGLISH LEASE.

This indenture, made the
 day of _____ in the
 year of the reign of our Sovereign
 Lord George the Third, by the
 grace of God, of Great Britain,
 France, and Ireland, King, Defender
 of the Faith, and so forth, and in the
 year of our Lord One thousand
 seven hundred and _____

Between A. B. of the
 one part, and C. D. on the other,
witnessth, That for and in con-
 sideration of the rents and covenants,
 profits and agreements, herein af-
 ter reserved, expressed, and con-
 tained,

* SCOTCH LEASE.

It is contracted, agreed, and
 ended between A. B. proprietor of
 the subjects after set, on the one
 part, and C. D. of the other part,
 in manner following, that is to say,
 the said A. B. proprietor, has set,
 and in consideration of the yearly
 rents or tack-duty, and other pay-
 ments and prestations, herein speci-
 fied, sets, and in tack and asseda-
 tion, lets to the said C. D. and his
 heirs, secluding assignees, both le-
 gal and voluntary, and subtenants
 of every denomination, *all* and
whole the town and lands of _____

lying

In Scotland, the practice of granting leases for at least nineteen years, has become very general, and may justly be considered as the means by

ENGLISH LEASE.

tained, and which on the part and behalf of the said C. D. his executors, and administrators, are to be paid, done, and performed, he the said A. B. hath demised, leased, setten, and to farm letten; and by these presents, doth demise, lease, set, and to farm let, unto the said C. D. his executors and administrators, all those messuages, tenements, or farms, called

situated in the parish of
and county of
now or late in the pos-

session of

as tenant thereof, to and under the said A. B. Together with all and singular houses, out-houses, edifices, buildings, barns, byres, stables, yards, garths, stack-garths, gardens, lands, feedings, ways, waters, easements, privileges, appurtenances, whatsoever, to the said demised premises, belonging, or in any wise appertaining, *Except*, and always reserved out of this present demise, unto the said A. B. his heirs and assigns, all mines, minerals, and quarries, of what nature or kind soever the same be, as well opened as not opened, lying, being, and remaining within or under the said premises, or which can or may be obtained or gotten forth or out of the same, or any part thereof, with full and free liberty, power, and authority, to, and for the said A. B. his heirs or assigns, and his and their agents, servants, and workmen, at all times, to search for all and every such mines, minerals, and quarries, and to sink pits or shafts, and to make trenches, grooves, drifts, water gates, canals,

SCOTCH LEASE.

lying within the parish of

and county of

and that for the full and complete space of nineteen years and crops, from and after the entry of the said C. D. thereto, which is hereby declared to be and begin, as to the arable lands, meadows, and pastures, at the separation of this present crop from the ground; and as to the houses, at the term of Martinmas, both in the year One thousand seven hundred and Reserving to the said A. B. his heirs, successors, and assignees, full power and liberty to make search for and work coals, and other minerals, and to quarry lime and free stone, and dig marl in any part of the lands hereby set, and to apply the same to his or their own use, the same being excepted from this lease, with free access to and from the same: The said A. B. and his forefathers being bound and obliged to pay to the said C. D. and his forefathers, all surface-damage that may be done to the grounds, by carrying on said operations, as the same may be determined by two men, to be mutually chosen: Reserving also power and liberty to the said A. B. and his forefathers, to straighten or alter the marches of the lands hereby set, with those of the adjoining lands: And in case, by such alteration of marches, there shall be lands added to or taken from the farm hereby set, then, and in that case, the rent of the lands so exchanged shall be determined by two men, to be mutually chosen by the said parties, or their forefathers: And further, reserving to the

by which the spirit which now prevails for agricultural improvements in this kingdom, has been so widely diffused.

It

ENGLISH LEASE.

canals, and water-courses, and to direct or turn any water-courses, brook, or river, for the winning and working such mines, minerals, and quarries, within the said demised premises: *And also* for the winning and working any other mines, minerals, or quarries, whatsoever, with sufficient ground-room and heap-room, for laying the ores, metals, minerals, coals, stones, clay, earth, materials, and rubbish, to proceed, or be obtained or gotten forth and out of the same, or any of them, together with full liberty and power to build and erect engines, machines, houses, hovels, lodges, stables, cabins, and other edifices and erections whatsoever, for the effectual winning and working the same: *And also* full and free liberty of way, leave, and passage, in, through, and over the said premises, or any part thereof, to and from the said mines, minerals, and quarries, within the said hereby demised premises, or to or from any other mines, minerals, and quarries, whatsoever, with carts, wains, waggons, and all other carriages, or contrivances, for leading ores, metals, minerals, coals, stones, cinders, bricks, lime, timber, or any other matter or thing whatsoever, and to make, lay, and place through, over, and upon the said premises, any road or roads, waggon-way or waggon-ways, or any way or ways, canal or canals, for the purpose aforesaid, and from time to time to repair such roads, ways, or canals, and to do all other acts and things needful or necessary for the winning, working, managing, and carrying on

SCOTCH LEASE.

the said A. B. and his forefairs, power and liberty, at any time during this lease, to assume the possession of, and to plant with trees any part or parts of the subject, hereby set, as he shall think proper; but such lands so to be assumed and taken possession of by the proprietor, for the purpose aforesaid, shall not exceed in whole acres: The said C. D. and his forefairs being always entitled to a deduction and allowance out of the rent yearly, during the then remainder of this lease, at, and after the rate of *per* acre of the lands, which shall be so occupied with such planting, it being at the same time expressly understood, that the said A. B. shall fence and inclose such planting in a sufficient manner, and at his own expence.

[Here follow any further reservations that may be judged necessary.]

Which tack, above written, the said A. B. binds and obliges him, his heirs and successors, under the reservations aforesaid, to warrant to be good and sufficient to the said C. D. and his forefairs, at all hands, and against all deadly, as law will: For which causes, and on the other part, the said C. D. binds and obliges himself, his heirs, executors, and successors, whomsoever, to content and pay to the said A. B. his heirs and assignees, or to his or their factors, (stewards), for their behoof, the sum of of yearly rent or tack-duty, for the subjects hereby set, at Whitunday and Martinmas, by equal portions, after

It is much to be regretted, that a prejudice against granting leases, has rooted itself in the minds of a majority of the English proprietors, to

ENGLISH LEASE.

on the said mines, minerals, and quarries, and leading and conveying away the produce of the said mines, minerals, and quarries, or any other mines, minerals, or quarries, as he or they shall think proper, with liberty to demise or grant to any persons all such liberties as herein before mentioned: *And also*, except and reserved unto the said A. B. his heirs and assigns, all timber and other trees, woods, underwoods, and plantations, and the ground and soil thereof, now standing, growing, or being, or which shall hereafter at any time during the continuance of this demise, stand, grow, or be upon the said premises, with liberty to make plantations, and inclose the same, whenever and wherever he or they shall think proper, and to fell, cut down, or lop such timber-trees, or other trees, wood, underwoods, and plantations, and to lead and carry away the same, by any means whatsoever: *And also*, except full and free way, leave, and passage, in, through, over, and along the said hereby demised premises, or any part thereof, for any other uses or purposes whatsoever, he the said proprietor, his heirs or assigns, or his or their grantee or lessee, respectively, making reasonable satisfaction to the said tenant, his executors or administrators, for the damage or spoil of herbage or ground, to be occasioned by the use or exercise of all and every, or any of the liberties aforesaid, such satisfaction to be from time to time fixed and ascertained by two indifferent persons, one to be named by and

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after reaping each years crop, beginning the first terms payment of the said rent at Whittunday One thousand seven hundred and the next term's payment at Martinmas thereafter, for crop and year One thousand seven hundred and and so forth, yearly and termly, during the currency of this tack, with a fifth part more of each term's rent of penalty, in case of failure, and the legal interest thereof, from and after the respective terms of payment, during the not-payment of the same; and also to deliver yearly to the minister of the parish of the proportion of victual stipend, payable to him from the subjects hereby set: The said proprietor, and his aforesaid, being obliged to make an allowance or discount to the said tenant, and his aforesaid, out of the rent or tack-duty before mentioned, according to the fiars of the county for said crop, for the quantity of grain so delivered, annually*: *And further*, to pay the proportion of schoolmaster's salary, and ground officer's dues, affecting the lands hereby set, and to carry, when

* FIARS.—*Are the prices of all kinds of grain, which are ascertained annually in each county in Scotland, by a jury, in presence of the Sheriff, and which regulate in various cases, where the prices are not or cannot be ascertained by covenant.*

The tenant is generally bound to pay the proportion of stipend grain to the clergyman, over and above the stipulated money rent.

to such a degree, that it will in all probability be a long period before it is completely removed. This is an evil which falls properly under the cognizance

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and on the part of the said A. B. his heirs or assigns, and the other by and on the part of the said C. D. his executors or administrators: *And also*, except and reserved full power and authority for the said A. B. his heirs or assigns, and his and their stewards, agents, servants, and workmen, at all times, during the term hereby demised, to enter upon the said premises, and every or any part thereof, to view the state and condition thereof: *And also*, except and reserved unto the said proprietor, his heirs and assigns, and his and their servants, free liberty to hunt, course, hawk, shoot, and fish, in, upon, through, and over all and every the said hereby demised premises, or any part thereof: To have and to hold the said messuage, tenement, or farm-hold, lands, grounds, and all and singular other the premises hereby demised, or mentioned, or intended so to be, with their and every of their appurtenances, (except as before excepted), unto the said C. D. his executors, and administrators, from the twelfth day of May, which shall be in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and for and during and unto the full term of Twenty-one years, from thenceforth next ensuing, and fully to be completed and ended: Yielding and paying therefor yearly and every year during the said term of Twenty-one years, hereby demised unto the said A. B. his heirs or assigns, at in the said county of the clear yearly rent or sum of

SCOTCH LEASE.

when desired, at his own proper charge and expence, tons of coals yearly from to the mansion-house of the said A. B. at or to pay for each deficient ton of coal; declaring, that if the carriage of the said coals is not demanded within the year, the tenant shall not be liable for the non-performance of said carriage for that year: And further, the said C. D. binds and obliges himself and his forefairs, to dwell and reside with his and their families, upon the lands hereby set, during the currency of this lease, and to consume the whole fodder that shall be raised on the said farm, and shall not sell or otherwise dispose of any part thereof, hay and wheat-straw for thatch only excepted: And that he shall be bound to apply to the lands hereby set, the whole dung made thereon, and to properly labour and manure the same, and not to cross-crop the same during the first seven years of this lease, by sowing wheat after wheat, oats after oats, wheat after oats, or oats after wheat, and in no way to waste, run out, or deteriorate said lands; but on the contrary, shall use all proper means for meliorating and improving the same: And the said C. D. binds and obliges himself and his forefairs, particularly to observe the following rules and regulations in the management and cultivation of the subjects hereby set, viz. The whole farm shall be divided into seven parts, as nearly equal as the situation of the grounds will permit, and

cognizance of the Board of Agriculture, and to which, it is hoped, the members will pay that degree of attention, which so great a national object

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of lawful money of Great Britain, by equal half-yearly payments, at two days or times in the year, that is to say, the twenty-second day of November, and the twelfth day of May, in every year, by even and equal portions; the first half-yearly payment of the said yearly rent to begin and be made upon the twenty-second day of November next ensuing the commencement of the said term, hereby demised: *And also* yielding and paying yearly, and every year, unto the said A. B. his heirs or assigns, on the several days and times aforesaid, over and above the said yearly rent of the further

rent or sum of pounds an acre for every acre of the said demised premises, that he the said C. D. his executors or administrators, shall, at any time or times during the continuance of this demise, break up, tear out, or convert into tillage, or have, or use, or employ in any course of husbandry, contrary to the covenants herein after contained, without the licence and consent of the said proprietor, his heirs or assigns, in writing, for that purpose, first had and obtained, and so in proportion for a greater or less quantity than an acre; the first payment of the said additional rent to be made on the first of the aforesaid half-yearly days of payment, which shall happen next after the ploughing, breaking up, tearing out, or converting into tillage, or having, or using, or employing, in any course of husbandry, contrary to the covenants here-

in

SCOTCH LEASE.

and the following rotation of cropping adopted; one-seventh part thereof shall be sown the first year with turnips and potatoes, which shall be sown the second year with barley, and eight pounds red clover, eight pounds white clover, four pounds rib-grass, and a bushel and a half of rye-grass seeds*; the third, fourth, and fifth years, in grass†; the sixth year in oats; and the seventh year in barley: The said C. D. and his forefathers being left to their own discretion to bring in the remaining parts of the farm to this mode of cropping, under the restrictions herein contained, so that from and after the expiry of the first seven years of this lease, one-seventh of the farm shall be regularly under turnips and potatoes; two-sevenths under barley; one-seventh under oats; and three-sevenths in grass: And the said C. D. binds and obliges himself and his forefathers, to adhere to the rotation of cropping above prescribed, during the then remaining years of this lease, and to leave the farm in that order of cropping at the expiry thereof: And in regard the rent before mentioned is stipulated for these

* *The kinds and quantities of grass-seeds sown, vary on almost every estate; but these above mentioned are most commonly used.*

† *The tenant should be permitted to make the first year's crop of grass into hay; but the two succeeding crops ought to be used as pasture.*

object merits. From the influence of that Board, and the respectability and intelligence of those characters, who are blameable in this respect,

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in after contained, any part of the said hereby demised premises, which said two several and respective rents are to be paid, as above expressed, and reserved, free and clear of all taxes, assessments, charges, and impositions whatsoever, as well parliamentary as parochial, or otherwise, which the said demised premises, now are, or may hereafter be liable to answer or pay: *Provided* always, and upon condition, and it is the true intent and meaning of these presents, that if it shall happen that the said yearly and other rents, herein and above reserved, or any of them, or any part thereof, be behind or unpaid, by the space of forty days, next, over, or after either, or any of the said days or times whereon the same ought to be paid as aforesaid, or in case the said C. D. his executors, or administrators, shall neglect or refuse to do and perform all and every, or any of the covenants or agreements, herein mentioned and contained, on his and their parts and behalves, to be paid, done, and performed; or in case the said tenant, his executors, or administrators, shall, or do, at any time or times, during the term hereby demised, alien, let, or assign over the said premises, or any part thereof, unto any person or persons, without the licence and consent of the said A. B. his heirs or assigns, in writing, for that purpose, first had and obtained, that then, and in any of the said cases, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said A. B. his heirs or assigns, or such person or persons as shall be by him or

SCOTCH LEASE.

these methods of culture, therefore, in case the said C. D. or his forefairs shall crop the lands, or any part thereof, in a manner different from the methods hereby prescribed, the said C. D. binds and obliges himself and his forefairs to pay to the said A. B. or his aforesaid, at the term of Whitsunday, after every such crop, the sum of
of additional rent for each acre that shall be cropped differently from the rotation of cropping hereby prescribed; and which additional rent shall be subject to no modification: And further, the said C. D. binds and obliges himself and his forefairs, to allow the incoming tenant to sow grass-seeds in that seventh part of the farm, which shall be under barley after turnips the last year of this lease, and that without any payment or deduction of rent: And in regard the whole houses on the farm, which are hereby declared to be in sufficient order, have been valued and appraised by persons mutually chosen by the said A. B. and C. D. and the same ascertained to amount in value to

Therefore the said houses are to be wholly upheld and kept in a habitable condition by C. D. and his forefairs, at their own expence, during this lease; and at the expiry thereof, the same shall in like manner be again appraised and fully valued by persons mutually chosen: And in case the valuation, at the expiry, shall fall short of the aforesaid valuation, the said C. D. binds and obliges himself and his forefairs to pay the shortcoming or deficiency to the said A. B. or his forefairs:

respect, much may be expected, as nothing more seems necessary to bring about an alteration, than to convince them of their error.

It

ENGLISH LEASE.

or them appointed for that purpose, without any previous demand or notice whatsoever, to be made or given to the said C. D. his executors, administrators, or assigns, into and upon the said demised premises, or into any part thereof, in the name of the whole, to re-enter, and the same to have again, re-possess, and re-enjoy, as in his and their first and former estate, and from and immediately after such re-entry made, the said term hereby demised shall cease, determine, and become utterly void and of non-effect, any thing in these presents contained to the contrary thereof, in any wise notwithstanding: And the said A. B. for himself, his heirs and assigns, doth hereby covenant, promise, and agree, to and with the said C. D. his executors and administrators, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said C. D. his executors or administrators, (he and they paying the rents, and performing the covenants and agreements herein reserved and contained, on his and their parts and behalves, to be paid, done, and performed, according to the true intent and meaning of these presents), peaceably and quietly, to have, hold, use, occupy, possess, and enjoy, all and singular the said premises, with their appurtenances, hereby demised, (except as before excepted), for and during the said term of twenty-one years, without the lawful let, suit, trouble, denial, hindrance, molestation, eviction, or interruption of him the said A. B. his heirs or assigns, or any other person

SCOTCH LEASE.

But in case the valuation at the expiry shall exceed the above-mentioned sum of

the said C. D. or his forefairs shall have no claim for the said excess or meliorations*: And further, the said C. D. binds and obliges himself, and his forefairs, upon their own proper charges and expences, to insure from fire in some proper office, to be approved of by the said A. B. the whole houses built or to be built on the said farm, at such sum as shall be fully equal to the value thereof; declaring, that if any deterioration shall happen to the said houses by fire during the continuance of the present lease, the said C. D. and his forefairs shall be liable to make good the damages to the said A. B. and his forefairs: And as the lands hereby set are at present completely inclosed, subdivided, and fenced; which inclosures and fences amount, by valuation, to the sum of

the said C. D. binds and obliges himself, and his forefairs, to preserve the same in a proper manner during the currency of this lease, by regularly repairing any breaches that may happen in the same; and also from time to time, as occasion may require, to cut

** When new houses are necessary, the proprietors in the southern parts of Scotland generally agree to advance such a sum as is necessary to defray the expence of materials and workmanship; and the tenants are bound to be at the expence of the carriage of all materials.*

It has been said, that the consequence which the generality of English farmers hold in the political scale, by the proprietors of lands of the yearly value of forty shillings, having a right to

ENGLISH LEASE.

son or persons, claiming by, from, or under him, them, or any of them: *And also*, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said E. D. his executors, or administrators, (he and they paying the rents, and performing the covenants and agreements, as aforesaid), in the harvest season next after the expiration of the said term hereby demised, peaceably and quietly, to have cut down, reap, and lead the crop of corn or grain by him, them, or any of them, sown, and then growing upon two-third parts of the lands then in ploughing or tillage, (according to the covenants herein after contained, and the true intent and meaning of these presents); commonly called the way-going crop; and the same corn or grain, to set in the stack-yards, and thrash the same in the barn or barns, of, and belonging to the said demised premises: *And* that he the said C. D. his executors or administrators, shall, for the purposes aforesaid, have the use of all the stack-yards, barns, and granaries, of and belonging to the said demised premises, with barnmen's houses, until the twelfth day of May next, after the determination of this demise; and the same corn and grain so thrashed, after payment of rents, and arrears of rent then unpaid), shall and may carry away, sell, and dispose of, to and for his or their proper use and benefit, leaving and delivering all the straw, of the said way-going crop, as soon as the same

is

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cut and make proper ditches and drains through the subjects, hereby set: Declaring, That in case the said C. D. or his forefairs, shall fail or neglect regularly to repair the breaches that may happen in the fences, or to cut and make proper drains within one month after he or they shall be required so to do by the said A. B. or his forefairs, then, and in that case, the said A. B. or his forefairs, shall be at liberty to employ proper persons to execute the same: And the said C. D. binds and obliges himself, and his forefairs, to pay to the said A. B. or his forefairs, the full amount of the expences so incurred, on the production of the workmens accounts and receipts, without further proof: Declaring, That the said inclosures and fences shall be valued at the expiry of this lease, and the deterioration, if any, paid by the said C. D. and his forefairs, in the same way as has been hereby prescribed with regard to the houses*: And the said C. D. for himself and his forefairs, becomes bound

* It happens in many parts of the country, that improvements are carried on by an allowance being made by the proprietor to the tenant, at the end of the lease, for houses, dikes, and fences, according to the value of them. But it is much better for the proprietor to advance the money, as the tenant in the other way seldom has the means of carrying on the improvements with spirit or effect.

to vote at the election of a member to serve in Parliament, is one cause why leases in England are so rarely granted. Many of the great proprietors chusing to sacrifice their private interest, in order to

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is thrashed, (as herein after mentioned), in and upon the said premises, unto and for the use and benefit of the said A. B. his heirs or assigns, or his or their next succeeding tenant or tenants: And the said A. B. his heirs or assigns, or his or their next succeeding tenant or tenants, shall and will lead the said waygoing crop from the lands where it grew, to the barns or stack-yards, and fork the same from the loaded carts to the stacks: And also shall and will bear and pay one-half the expence of making and erecting new quick-fences upon the said premises, and of cleaning, tearing, and preserving the same for seven years, after being first planted: And also, &c. [*Here follows any other covenants on the part of the lessor for new buildings, &c. &c.*]

And the said tenant, for himself, his heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, doth covenant, promise, and agree, to and with the said A. B. his heirs and assigns, by these presents, in manner following, that is to say, that he the said C. D. his executors or administrators, shall and will and truly pay, or cause to be paid, unto the said A. B. his heirs or assigns, the said yearly rent or sum of and also the other casual or eventual rents, herein above reserved, and payable on the days and times, and in manner above mentioned, for payment thereof, according to the true intent and meaning of these presents: And also shall and will,

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bound to protect and take care of all trees planted, or to be planted, on the subjects hereby set, during the whole currency hereof: And in case any of the trees or plantations shall be damaged or destroyed, whether by himself or others, then, and in that case, the said C. D. and his forefairs, shall pay such damage as may be ascertained, and that in terms of the acts of Parliament made ancient the preservation of planting: Further, the said C. D. binds and obliges himself, and his forefairs, to give over to the incoming tenant the whole dung that may be remaining unused, together with the crop of turnips that shall be on the farm at the expiry of this lease, the value of which shall be ascertained by two persons, to be by them mutually chosen: And farther, the said C. D. binds and obliges himself, and his forefairs, to remove him and themselves, their servants, dependents, and others, forth and from the possession of the subjects hereby set, at the expiration of this lease, and that without any previous warning, or process of removing, instituted for that purpose.

[N. B. *Here follow any additional obligations on the tenant, that particular circumstances may render necessary.*]

And both parties bind and oblige themselves, and their forefairs, in case any dispute shall arise between them or their forefairs, respecting the true meaning, intent, or fulfilment of all or any of the clauses and obligations herein contained,

to support their political consequence. This, however, by no means justifies their conduct in this respect. Were they to give their tenants leases of a proper duration, although at improved rents, and behave to them, as many of them do,

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will, from time to time, and at all times, during the term hereby demised, well and truly pay and discharge all, and all manner of taxes, assessments, rates, charges, dues, tithes, and impositions, parliamentary or parochial whatsoever, which now are, or at any time hereafter, during the term hereby demised, shall be taxed, assessed, rated, charged, or imposed upon the said premises, or any part thereof: And also shall and will, from time to time, and at all times during the said term, hereby demised, at his and their own charge and expence, repair, uphold, maintain, and keep, with all manner of needful and necessary reparations, all and singular the houses, buildings, barns, byres, stables, offices, gates, stiles, rails, fences, hedges, ditches, drains, and water-courses, of and belonging to the premises, hereby demised, or which may at any time hereafter, during the said term, be built, erected, or made upon the said premises, or any part thereof: And at the end, expiration, or other sooner determination of the said term, shall and will deliver up all and singular the said houses, buildings, barns, byres, stables, offices, gates, stiles, rails, fences, hedges, ditches, drains, and water-courses, and the glass-windows, locks, keys, bolts, snecks, and hinges, of the said houses, buildings, and erections, unto the said A. B. his heirs or assigns, in such good and

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ed, to refer the same to the determination of two neutral persons, to be mutually chosen, whose judgment or award shall be final and binding upon both parties, and their aforesaid: And in case either party shall fail or delay to name an arbiter, for settling such disputes, for the space of one month after a formal submission it presented, and he or his aforesaid are required so to do by a writing under the hand of the other party, it shall and may be lawful for the arbiter named by the other party, to proceed to determine the said disputes, as sole arbiter, and the determination of the arbiter or arbiters, so named, shall be final and binding upon the parties, and their aforesaid: Declaring, That in every case where a reference is made to arbiters or valuers, in virtue of these presents, it shall be in the power of such arbiters or valuers, in case of a difference of opinion between themselves, to name an overman to decide between them, whose decision shall be as binding on the said parties, as if chosen by themselves: And, lastly, Both parties bind and oblige themselves, and their aforesaid, to implement their respective parts of the premises, *hinc inde*, under the penalty of

Sterling, to be paid by the party failing to the party performing, or willing to perform, over and above performance: And they consent to the registration

do, in a becoming manner, they would be entitled to that vote and interest, on the score of merit, which they now receive in consequence of the dependent state in which they hold them.

In

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and sufficient repair and condition, together with the peaceable and quiet possession thereof: *And also* shall not and will not, at any time or times, during the continuance of this demise, sell, dispose of, send or carry away, or permit to be sold or disposed of, sent or carried away from off the said premises, hereby demised, any of the hay, straw, clover, turnips, cabbages, or other fodder, that shall grow or be produced from, or made thereon, but shall and will eat and consume the same, (for the increase of manure) upon the said premises: *And also* shall and will, from time to time, during the continuance of this demise, at the proper seasons in every year, duly lay and spread upon the fallow grounds of the said premises, (where most requisite and proper for the improvement thereof), in an even, regular, and uniform manner, all the manure, dung, and compost, that shall be bred and made on the premises: *Except* the manure, dung, and compost, to be bred and made thereon in the year next before the determination of the said term; and which manure, dung, and compost, shall be left in the fold-yards, dung-hills, or midden-steads of the said premises, for the use and benefit of the said A. B. his heirs or assigns, or his or their next succeeding tenant or tenants: *And also* shall not, and will not plant or sow any hemp, flax, or mustard, or any rape for seed * upon the

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tion hereof in the books of Council and Session, or others competent, that letters of horning, on six days charge, and all other execution necessary, may pass hereon in due form: For which purpose, they constitute

their procurators.

In witness whereof, they have subscribed these presents, written on this and the preceding pages of stamped paper, by _____ with another duplicate of the same, at _____ the _____ day of _____ 1796, before these witnesses,

and

* Rape for green food is allowed.

It may be argued, that, were the numbers compared, there are fewer tenants removed from the possession of their farms in England than in Scotland. Mr Marshall, (in his Rural Oeconomy of the Midland Counties, Vol. I. p. 19.) observes,

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the said premises, or any part thereof: *And also* shall not, and will not, at any time or times in the year next, before the determination of this demise, depasture, or graze, or suffer to be depastured or grazed upon the said premises, or any part thereof, any larger stock of cattle, or greater number of stints than were usually depastured or grazed thereon in the two years next preceding the said last year of the said term, or other sooner determination thereof: *And also* shall and will, yearly and every year, during the said term hereby demised, catch, and destroy the moles, and scale, mold, drefs, and clean the grafs-grounds of and belonging to the said demised premises: *And also* shall and will thrash the waygoing crop, at the determination of the said term, in an uniform manner, so as to deliver a constant, regular, daily supply of straw to and for the use of the said A. B. his heirs or assigns, or his or their tenant or tenants: *And also* shall and will, from and after the first day of October, preceding the termination of the said term, hain, free, and keep uneaten, all those fields or parcels of ground sown with grafs-seeds in the last fifteen months of the said term; save and except that it shall and may be lawful for the said C. D. his executors and administrators, from and after the first day of April next, before the end of

the said term, to depasture with not more than sheep an acre, one-half of the said hained clover or new grafs, which half shall be chosen and set out by the agent of the said A. B. his heirs or assigns, in the month of March preceding: *And also* shall and will permit the said A. B. his heirs or assigns, or his or their tenant or tenants, to sow with grafs-seeds, all or any part of the lands sown with corn or grain, for the way-going crop, and to roll in the same with a roller, drawn by horses, according to the custom of the country: *And also* shall and will permit and suffer the said proprietor, his heirs or assigns, or his or their servants, draughts, and workmen, from time to time, and at all times, from and after the first day of December preceding the determination of this demise, to enter into and upon all the then fallow grounds of the said premises, or the grounds which, according to the true intent and meaning of these presents, ought to be in fallow, and the same to plow, sow, harrow, drefs, manure, lime, and prepare for such course of agriculture, as he or they shall think proper, to convert the same into, without the let or hindrance of him the said C. D. his executors or administrators: *And also* shall not, and will not, have, use, or employ, in plowing or tillage, a greater quantity of land, than acres of the said premises,

observes, that, “ to the honour of the landed interest, (in the counties of *Derby, Stafford, Warwick, and Leicesters*), the removal of tenants has been hitherto little practised, and of course is little understood. Many of the “ first

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premises, at any one time, or in any one year, during the term hereby demised: *And also* shall and will, yearly, and every year, during the term hereby demised, summer-fallow* at least one-third part of the tillage, and plow the same at least several times, at proper seasons in each year, and keep the same free and clear from quickins, wild oats, thistles, colts-foot, runch, dead nettles, and every other pernicious plant or weed, and lay and spread upon every acre of such fallow, in an even and regular manner, at least

fother of well-turned clod-lime, or in lieu thereof twenty fother of good well rotted dung, and so in proportion, for a less quantity than an acre: *And also* shall not and will not have, keep, or continue in plowing or tillage, any part of the said demised premises, more than three years at one time, that is, from being plowed out from grass, to being laid down to grass again: *And also* shall and will, yearly, and every year, sow with grass-seeds, and lay down to grass at least one-third part of the plowing or tillage-

* On the fallow are sown turnips, if a proper soil; or cabbages, or drilled beans, at thirty inches distance.

lands, after a clean summer-fallowing, and a crop of wheat, or a crop of turnips and white corn, and sow upon every acre thereof, at least eight pounds of red clover seed, three pounds of white clover, three pounds of rib-wort plantain, and two pecks of rye-grass* of the best quality to be had in the country at the time, the quantity to be ascertained by proper vouchers from the persons of whom the said seeds were bought, and by whom the said seeds were sown: *And also* shall and will, whenever any part of the ploughing or tillage-lands are laid, to grass, keep, and continue the same in grass at least three† years, before the same, or any part thereof, be again plowed out, or converted into tillage: *And also* shall

* To these upon light soils is generally added three or four pounds of yellow hop-clover.

† This blank is sometimes filled up with two or one, according to soil, situation, and circumstances, and weak soils, improper for corn, generally continue in grass five, six, or seven years, until it is thought they want refreshing by tillage, which is only used in such situations, as being subservient to rearing stock.

“ first farms have descended from father to son,
 “ through a series of generations ; and some of
 “ them, there is great reason to hope, may long
 “ continue in the same line of descent.” This,
 however, amounts to nothing more than that
 the English tenants hold their farms on the
 honour of their landlords, and that they in
 general behave to them in a manner becom-
 ing their rank and station. But if it is ask-
 ed, whether this kind of tenure from year to
 year, is better calculated to promote the inte-
 rest of agriculture, the ease, happiness, and
 prosperity of the farmers, or, that of regular
 leases for nineteen or twenty-one years, as is
 now common in Scotland, the answer must cer-
 tainly be in the negative,

The

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shall and will, in the last three
 years of the said term, lay down
 to grass as aforesaid, or have in
 grass, and at the end thereof leave
 in grass, all those fields or parcels
 of land, called

And also shall and
 will, during the whole of the said
 term, keep in grass, and at the
 expiration thereof, leave in grass,
 all those fields or parcels of land,
 called * ;

* This covenant is used only
 in such situations where there
 are any rich old grazing lands.

And also all such lands as shall be
 converted into watered meadows :
And also shall and will, during the
 term hereby demised, bear and pay
 one-half the expence of making
 and erecting new quick-fences up-
 on the said premises, and of clean-
 ing, rearing, and preserving the
 same for seven years, after being
 first planted.

Here follows any other parti-
 cular covenants that circumstances
 may require.

The injury which the nation at large sustains from this conduct on the part of these noblemen and gentlemen ; the bar which is thereby thrown into the way of spirited agriculture ; and the very improper manner in which the churchlands in that kingdom are leased, will be more fully mentioned, when treating of the obstacles to further improvements in agriculture.

END OF VOLUME FIRST.

